ALEXANDRIA

Transit Vision

*Your City. Your Transit Network.*

# Joint ATC Board and Transportation Commission Meeting

February 13, 2019

DASH

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Status Update
- Summary of Input from Engagement Round 1
- Draft Concepts (Concepts Report Overview)
- Preview of Engagement Round 2
- Next Steps

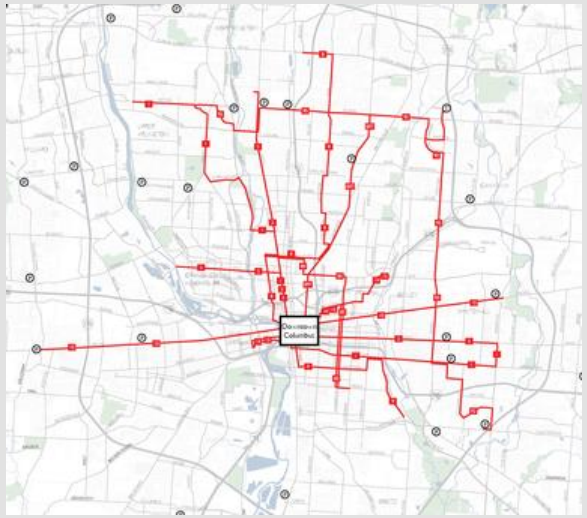
# Project Goals / Objectives

- Educate key stakeholders and community members on basic transit trade-offs
- Identify community transit priorities and values
- Identify existing & future bus transit needs through intensive data analysis
- Design future bus network
  - Unbiased (start with blank slate)
  - Data-driven
  - Incorporates community values for transit
  - Unconstrained
- Address emerging transportation technologies

# Other Successful Network Redesigns

**Columbus, OH**

Significant increase in ridership since 2017 implementation

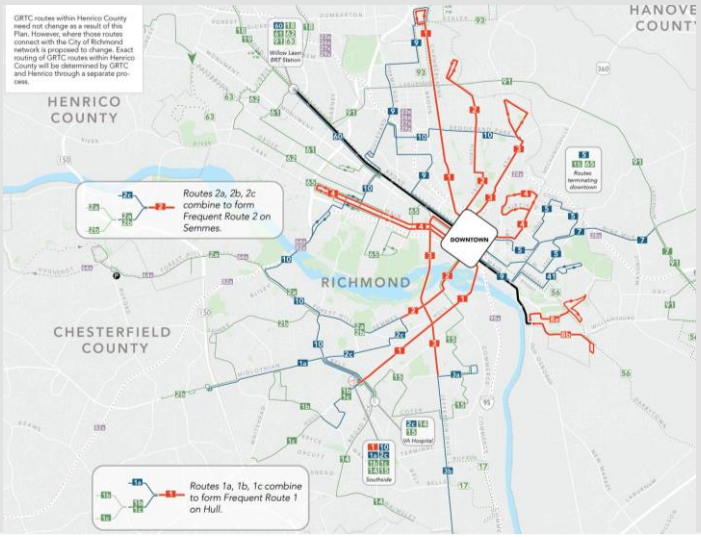


**Houston, TX**

Ridership steady despite economic downturn

**Richmond, VA**

Increase in ridership in first 6 months since implementation

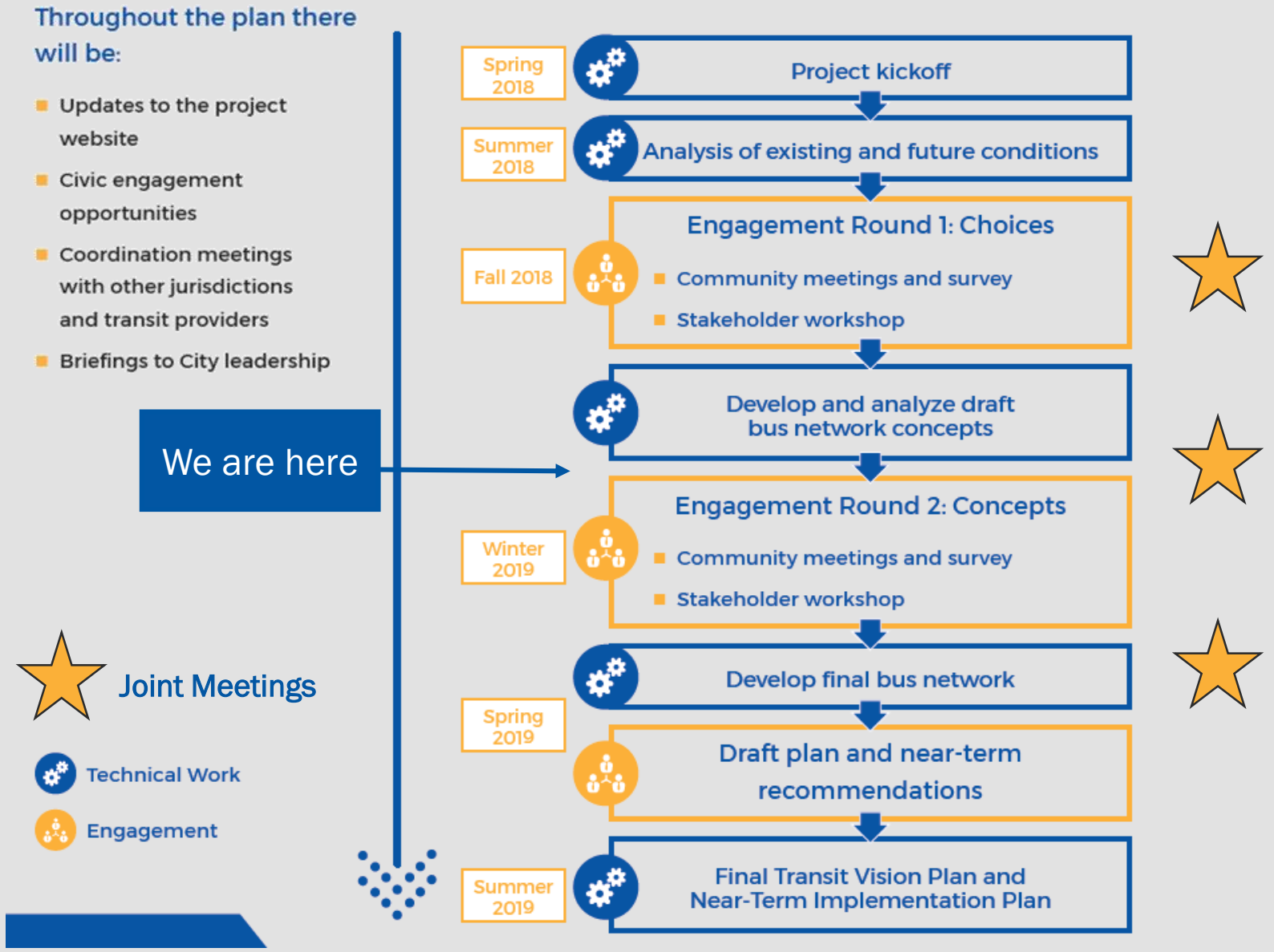


# Emerging Technologies

- Complement
- Compete
- Collaborate

# Process Update

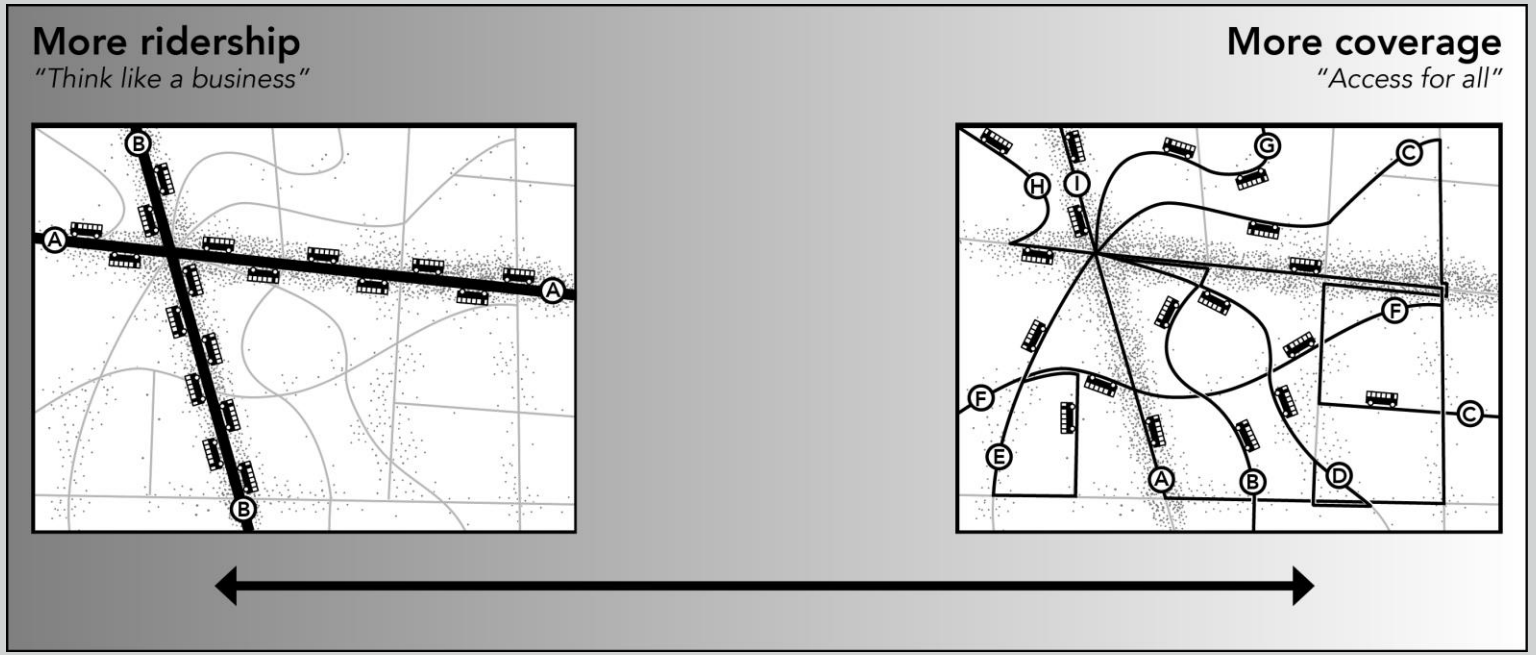
- Analyzed existing and future conditions
- Completed Choices Report and Round 1 Engagement
- Developed bus network concepts
- Completed draft of Concepts Report



# Review of Key Choices

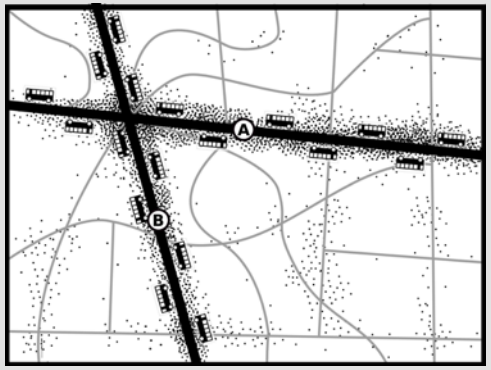
# Ridership or Coverage

- About 50% of DASH service is Ridership
- Remaining 50% is Coverage and Duplication
- What is the right balance for Alexandria?



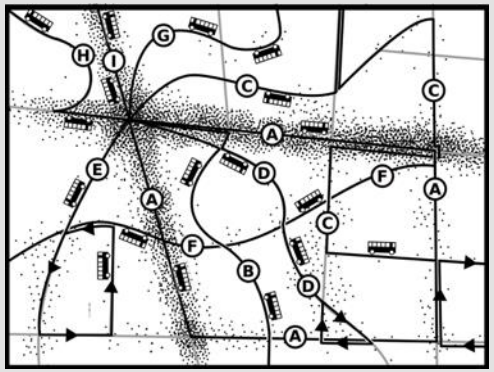
# Ridership and coverage goals are important, … but they lead opposite directions!

## Ridership Goal



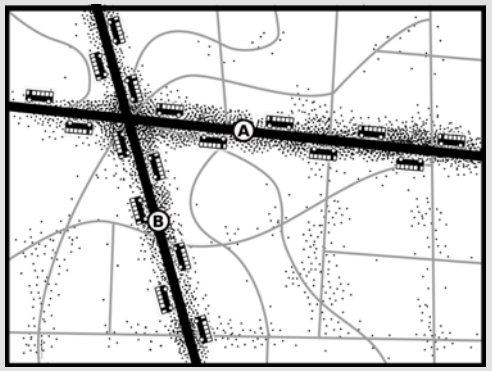
- “Think like a business”
- Lower subsidy, higher farebox return
- Support dense and walkable development
- Maximum VMT reduction
- Protect economy from congestion

## Coverage Goal

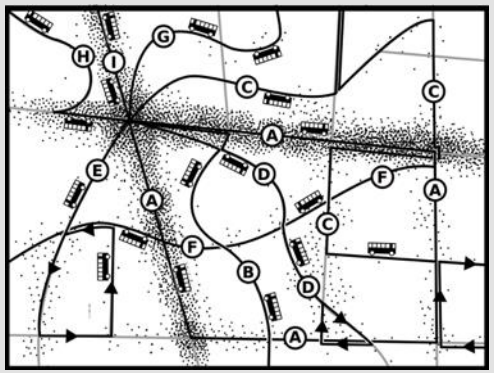


- “Access for all”
- Support suburban low-density development
- Lifeline access for everyone, no matter where they live
- Service to every neighborhood or district

# Alexandria can't solve this conflict between goals…



Ridership Goal



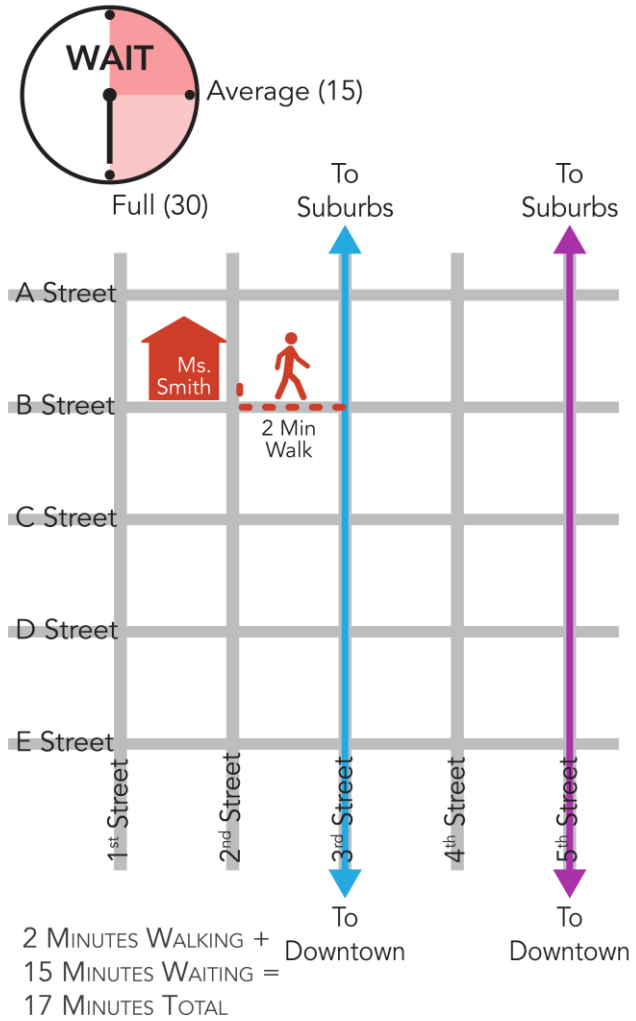
Coverage Goal

…but it CAN choose a deliberate balance point.

# Walking vs Waiting

- The individual experience of frequency vs. coverage is *walking vs. waiting*
  - Are you willing to walk farther to wait less?
  - Or will you accept long waits for a short walk?

**Minimize Walking** with more low-frequency routes on more roads.



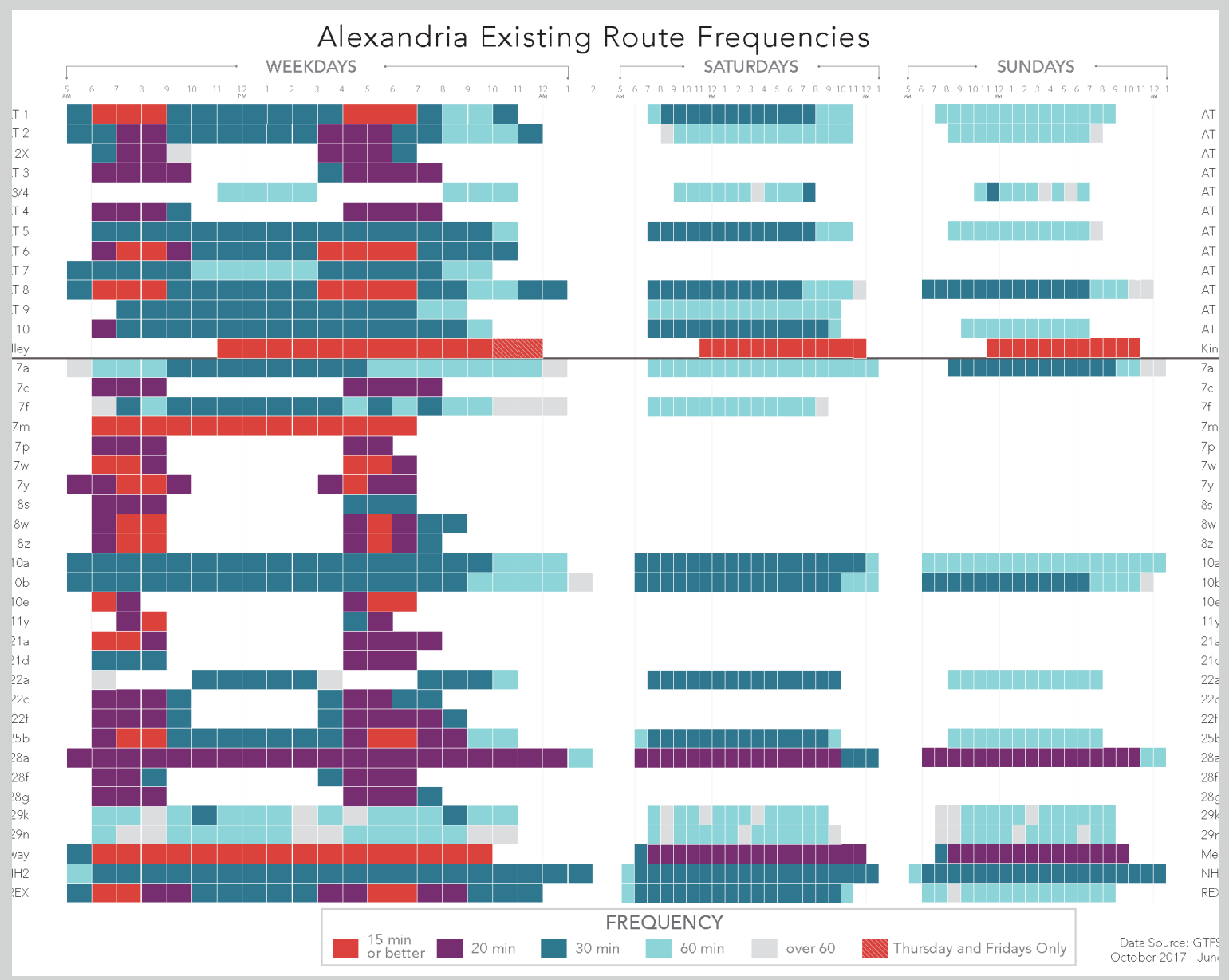

2 Minutes Walking +
15 Minutes Waiting =
17 Minutes Total

**Minimize Waiting** with a few reliable, high-frequency routes along major direct corridors.

6 Minutes Walking +
7.5 Minutes Waiting =
13.5 Minutes Total

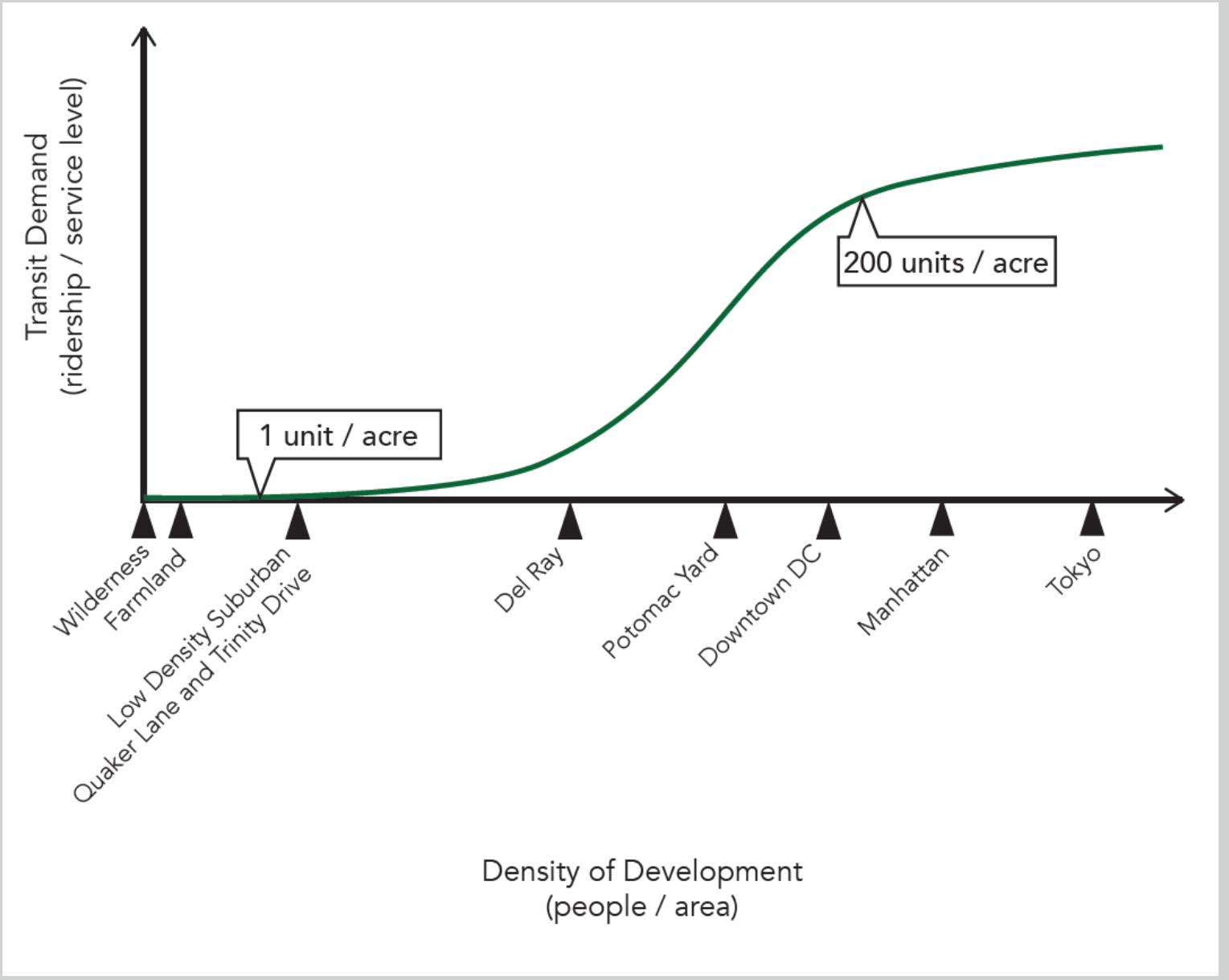
# Peak or All-Day and Weekend

- Highly peaked service
  - Complex peak services
- Peak productivity is about 30% higher than midday
- Low weekend and evening service
- How should Alexandria balance peak vs all day and weekend?



# Level of Investment

- Alexandria is growing
- Increasing density means increasing demand for transit
- How much should Alexandria invest in transit to meet growing demand?



# Summary of Engagement Round 1

# Engagement Round #1

- Stakeholder workshop
- 9 pop-up events
  - Braddock Metro
  - King Street Metro
  - Mark Center Station
  - Van Dorn Metro
  - Build America Plaza & Southern Towers
  - Port Festival
  - Four Mile Run Farmers Market
  - Del Ray
  - West End/Beauregard
- 2 community meetings
  - October 16th at Durant Arts Center
  - October 18th at Samuel Tucker Elementary School
- Webpage update and online survey
- Leadership Briefings
  - September 27th – Joint meeting with Alexandria Transportation Commission and DASH Board
  - DASH Board member follow-ups October 17th and November 5th
- Meeting with DASH drivers

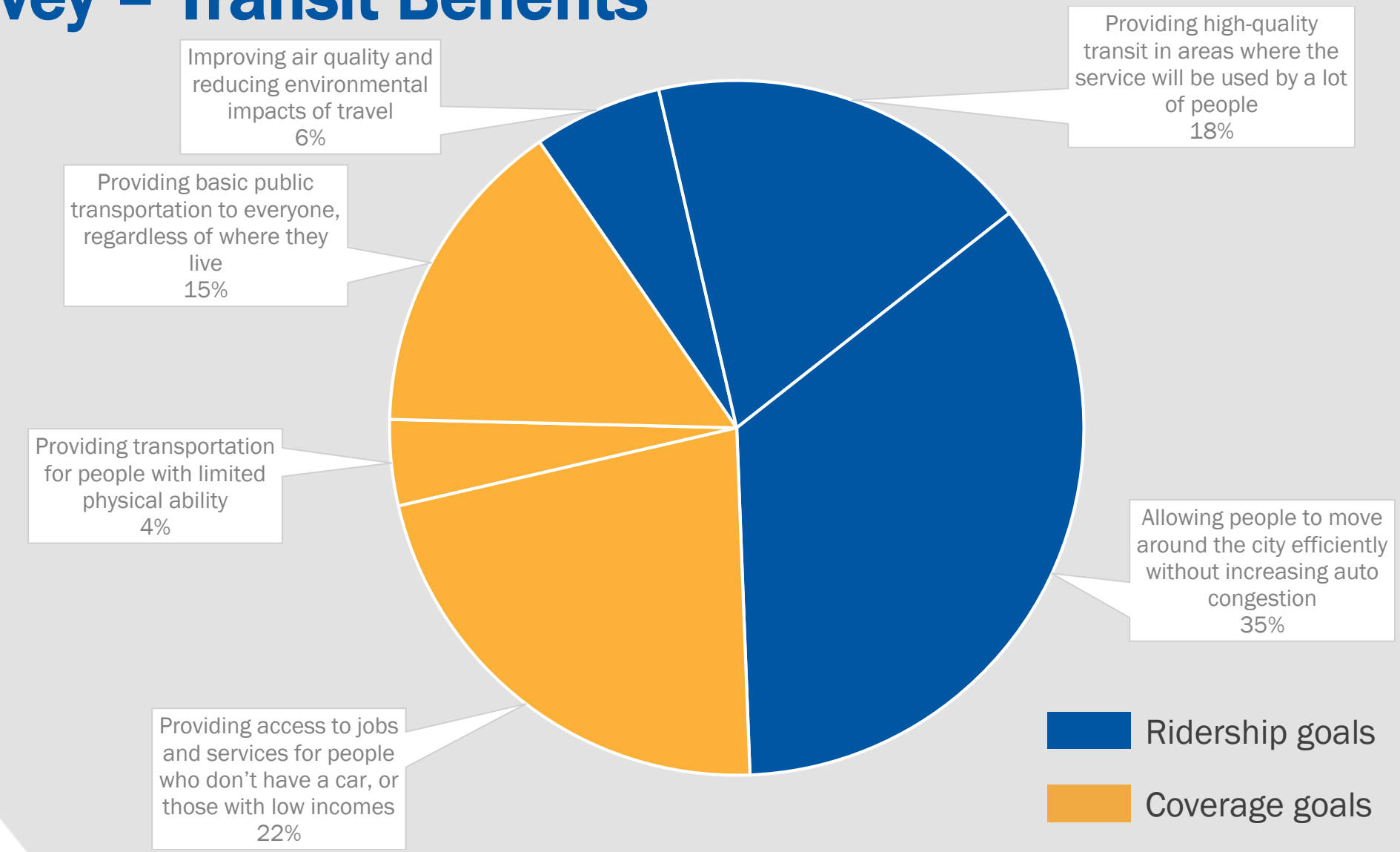
# Public Participation

- 24,500 views on Facebook, 650 Engagements
- 20% Open Rate on 3,900 emails
- 1,077 unique webpage views
- 33 meeting sign-ins
- 320 distinct survey responses
  - 77% online
  - 23% paper
- 8 email comments

- Overall, responses indicated:
  - Higher bus frequency and less waiting
  - The importance of coverage
  - The need for a consistent, reliable system with minimal travel time

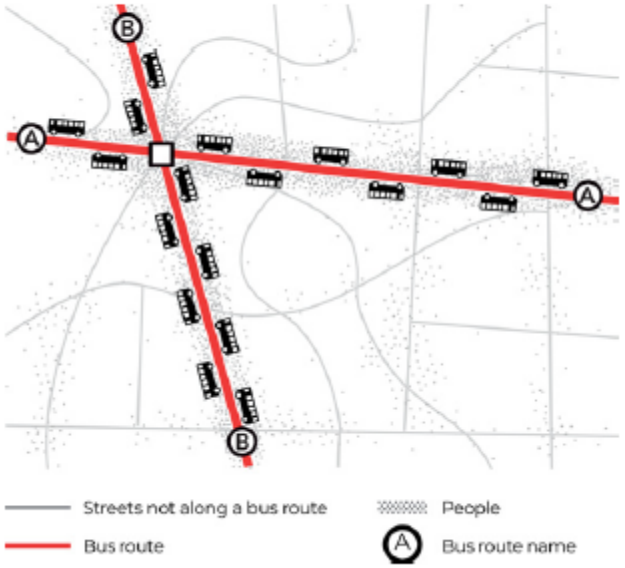
# Public Survey – Transit Benefits

*About 60% of respondents saw ridership-related transit benefits as most critical*

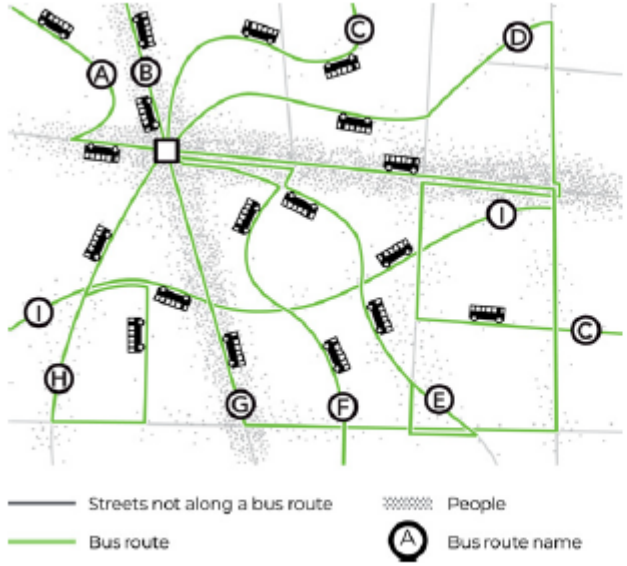


# Coverage vs. Frequency

Within a fixed budget, a transit agency must make a choice in how to distribute its service.

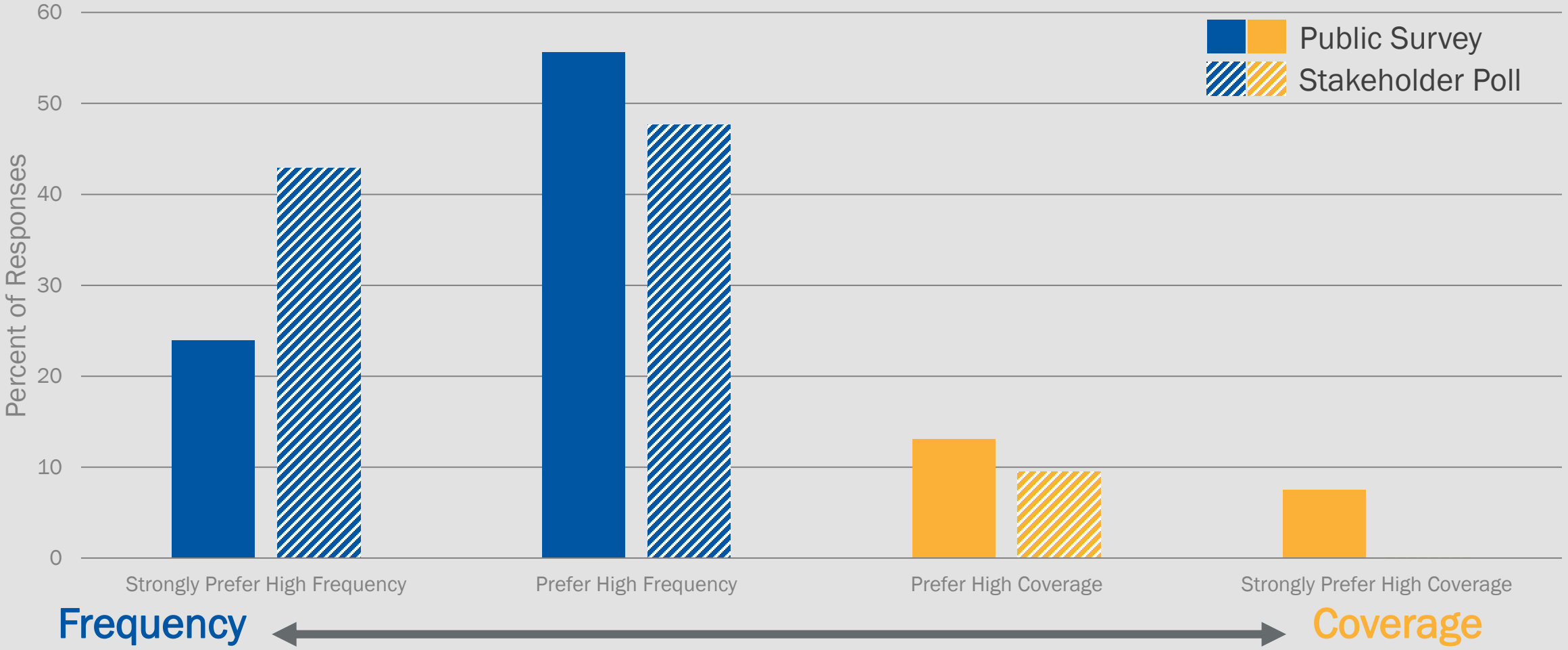



**High Frequency:** Bus service runs on a few frequent routes, only in the busiest areas. Waits are short and trips are faster in places with the most residents and businesses. However, less-populated areas may have no service at all.




**High Coverage:** Most streets have some minimal bus service, even in places with very few people. Everyone is a short walk from a bus stop, but waits are long and trips are slow.

# Public and Stakeholders – Frequency (Ridership) vs. Coverage



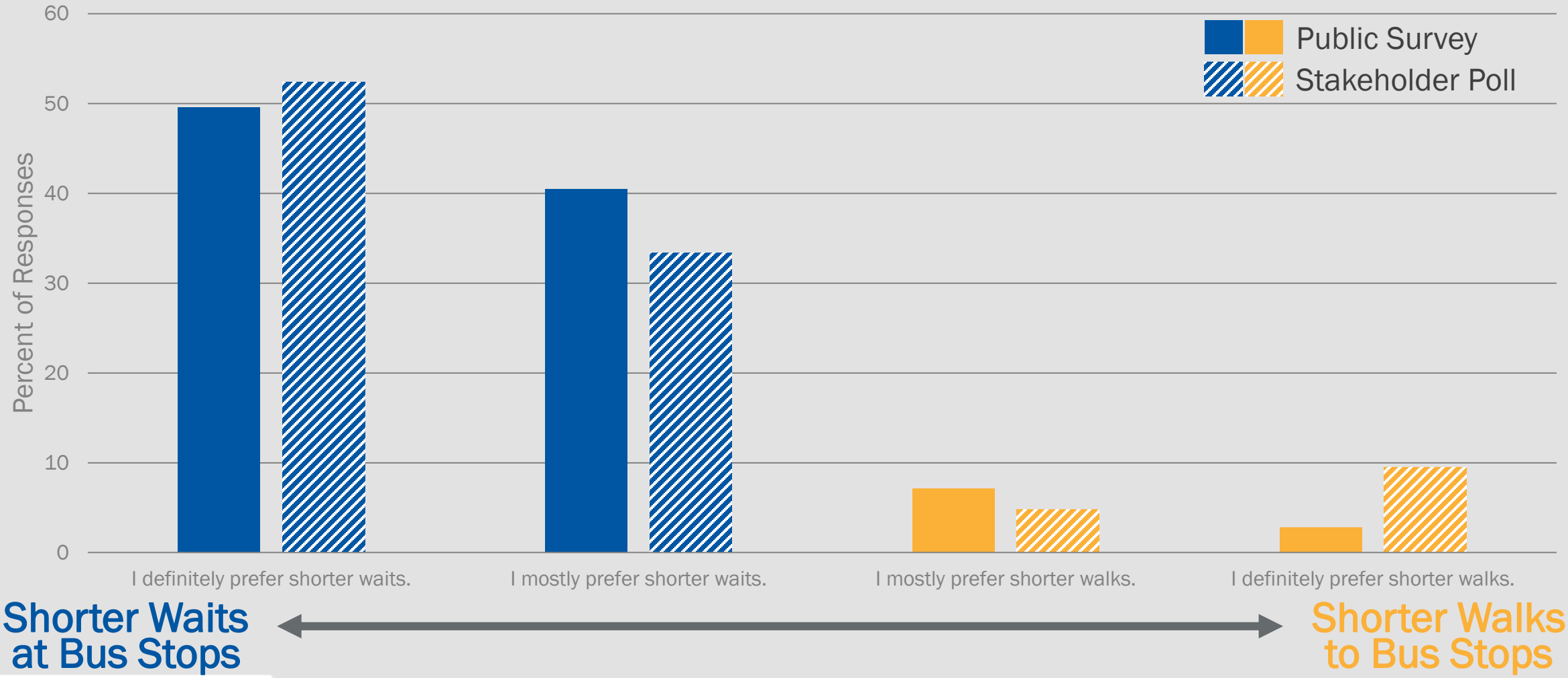
# Walk vs. Wait

This example below shows two different ways to provide transit service in the same neighborhood at the same cost.

**Minimize Waiting:** The bus service is running frequently (every 15 minutes) on one major road. The wait for the bus is shorter but some people may have to walk farther to reach the bus stop.

**Minimize Walking:** There are two bus routes where the service runs less frequently (every 30 minutes). Walks to the bus stop are shorter, but riders must wait longer for the bus to arrive.

# Public and Stakeholders - Walk vs. Wait




Shorter Waits at Bus Stops

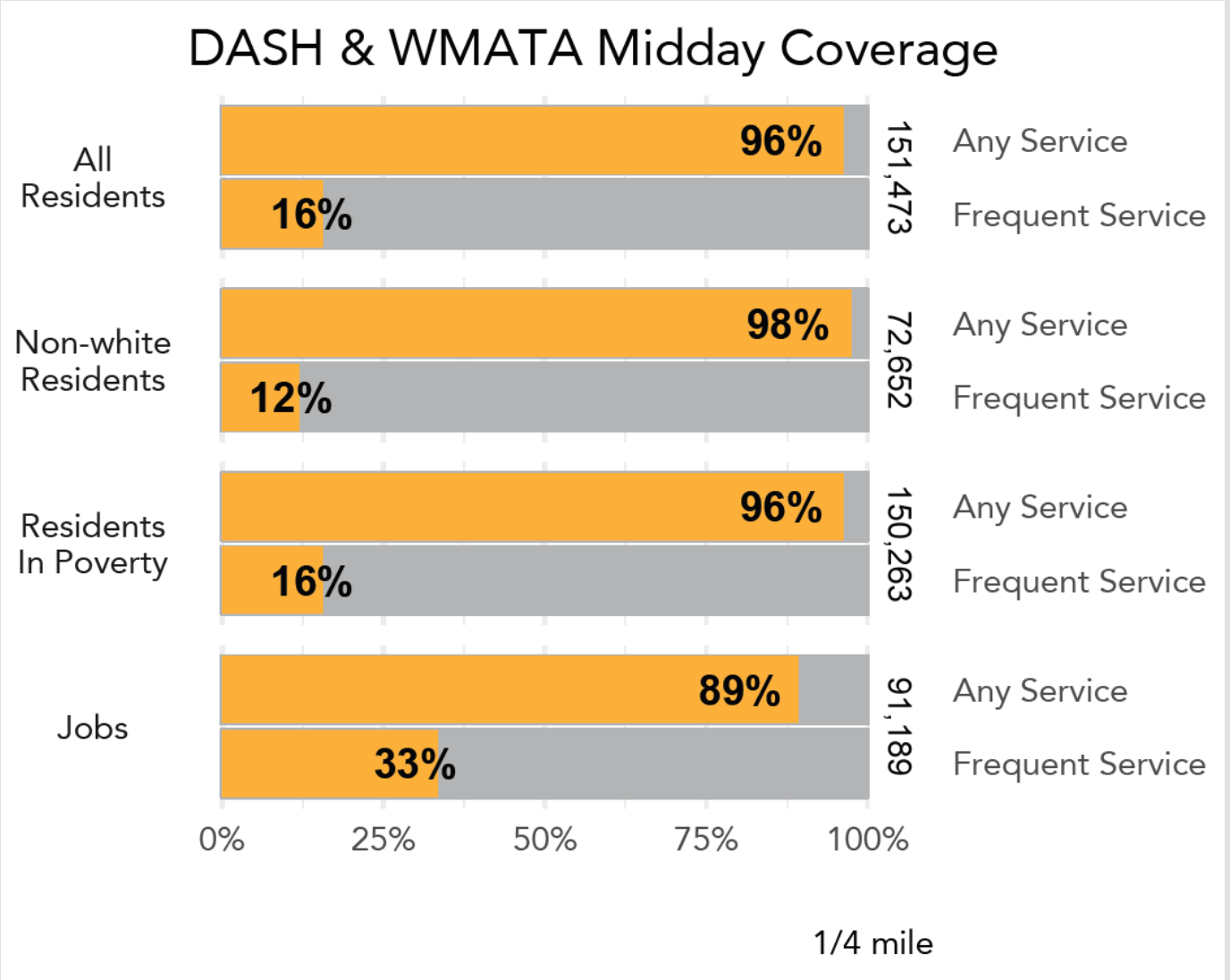
Shorter Walks to Bus Stops

# Public Survey – Investment Priorities

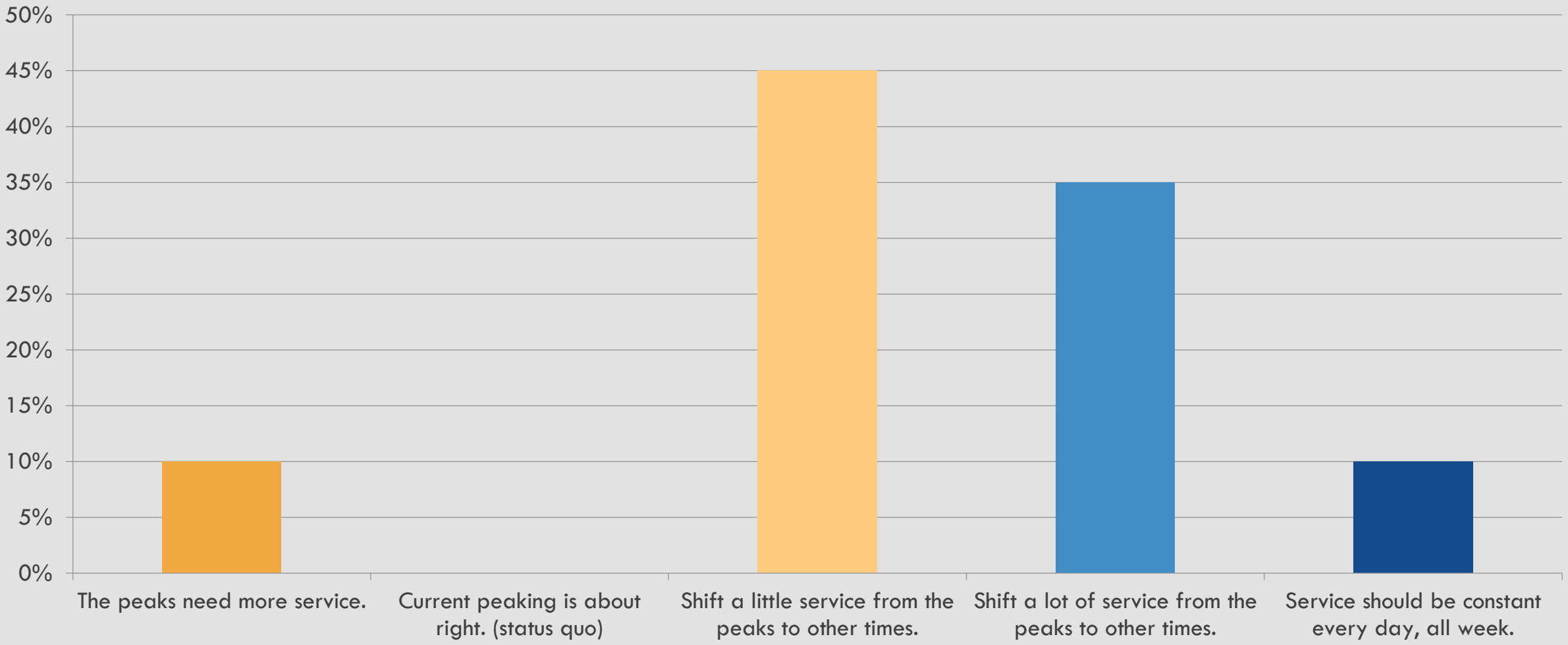
**3. Is there another way you would choose to invest your additional money from transit service?**

# Peak and Non-Peak Service

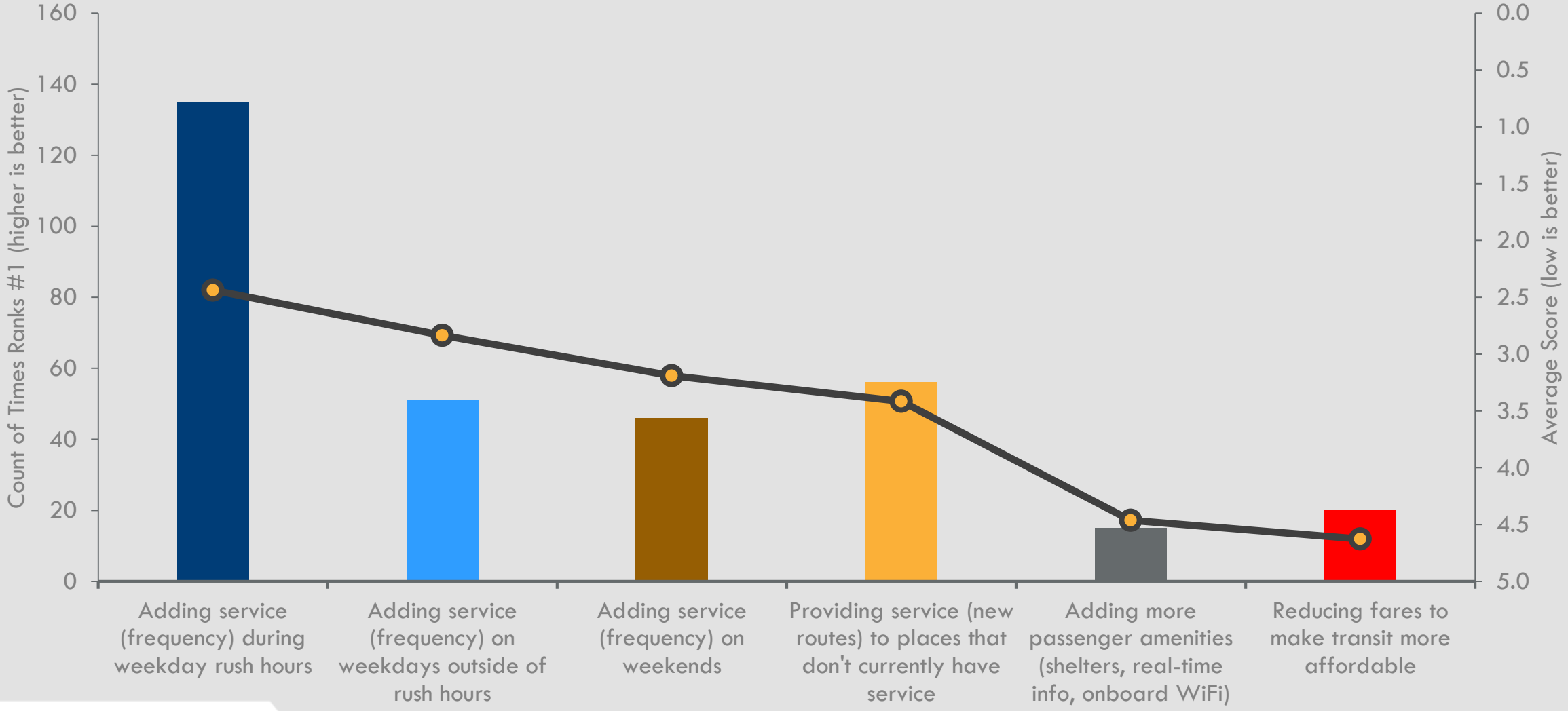
- Nearly all people are covered
- Vast majority of jobs are covered
- Minimal access to frequent service



# Stakeholder Poll – Peak and Non-Peak Service

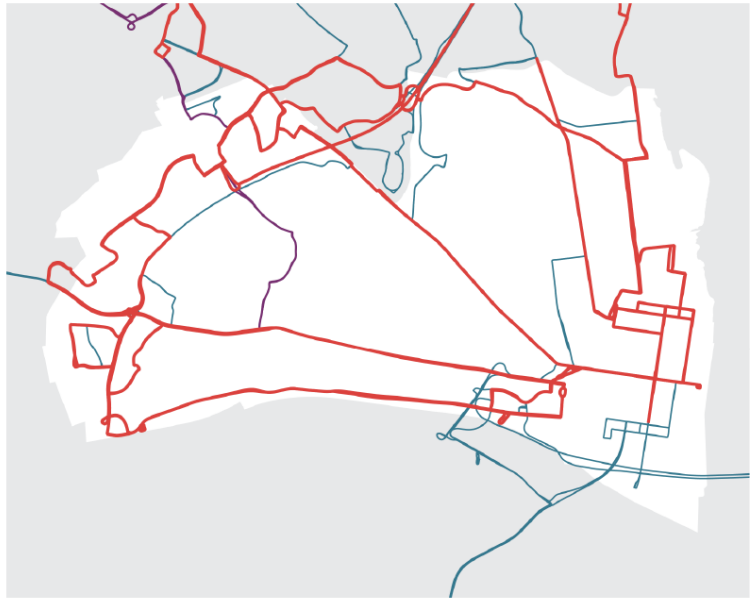


# Public Survey – Investment Priorities

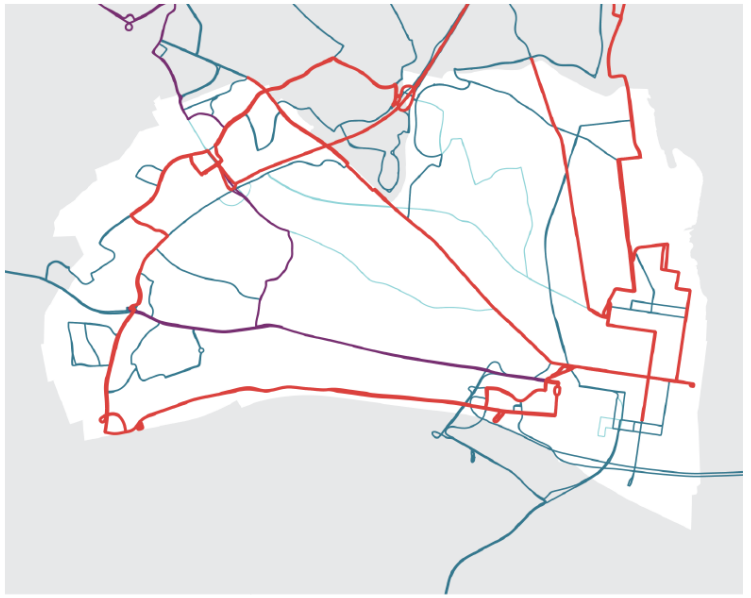


# Transit Concepts for Alexandria

## Ridership Concept



## Coverage Concept



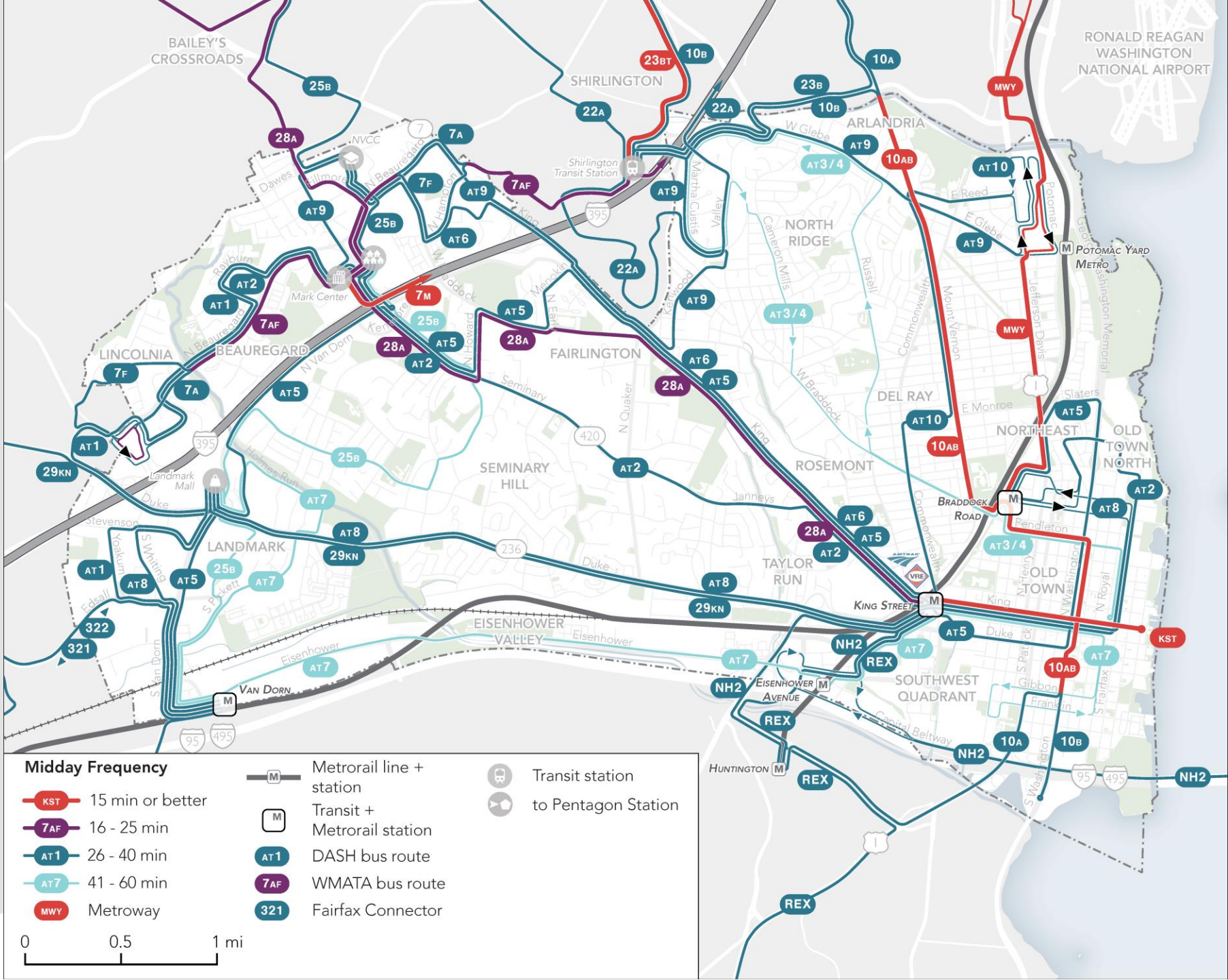
*Where should the transit network be, on this spectrum?*

# Key Assumptions

- 2030 networks, with 20% more bus service. Assumes some additional funding for the increased service.
- Bus-to-rail/Rail-to-bus transfer penalty is eliminated
- Potomac Yard Metrorail station is open
- Improved transit centers at Landmark Mall and Southern Towers
- King Street Trolley is better integrated into overall transit network
- West End Transitway station locations and signal priority
- Duke Street Transitway has signal priority

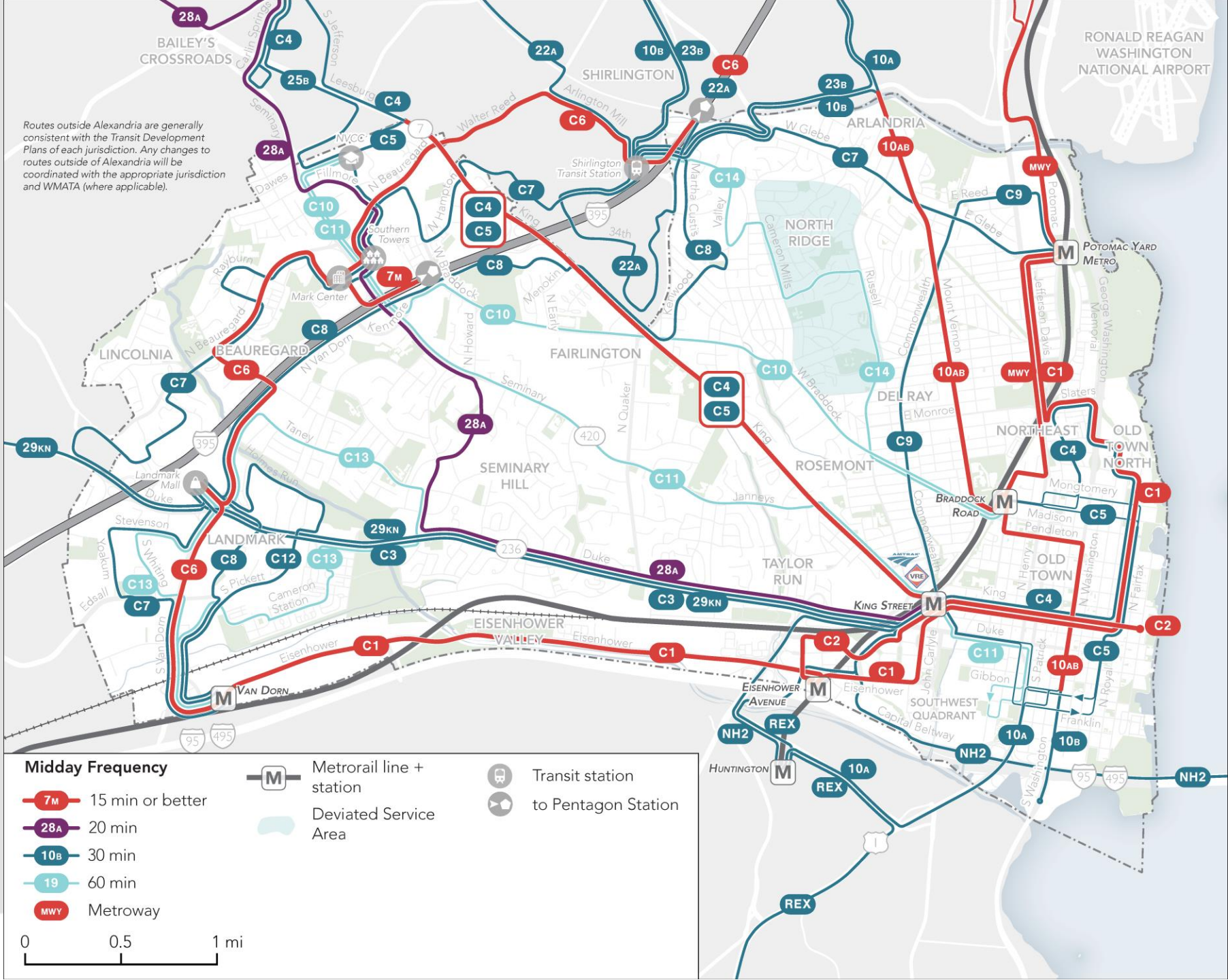
# Existing Network

## All-day Routes
## Midday Frequency



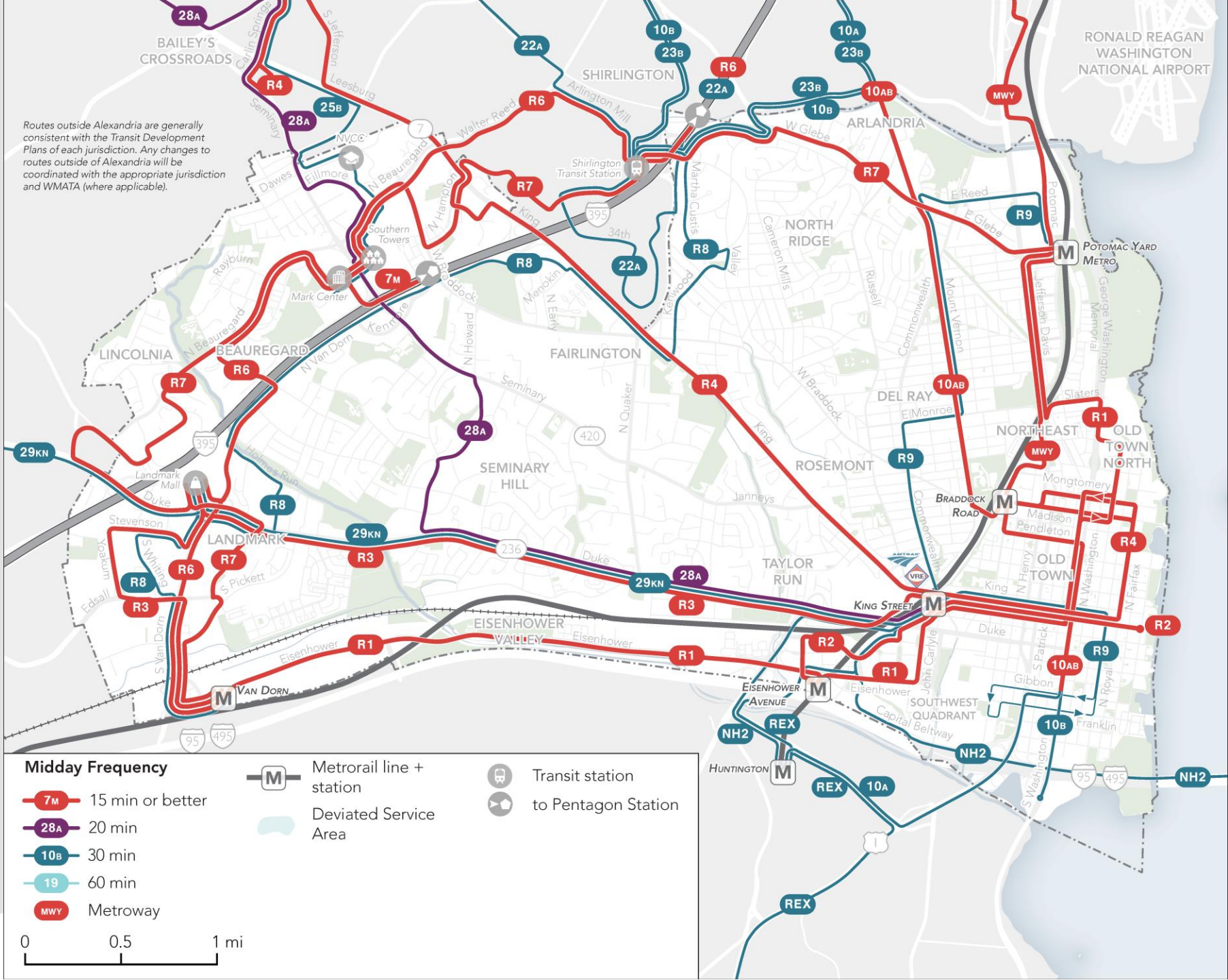
# Coverage Concept

## All-day Routes
## Midday Frequency

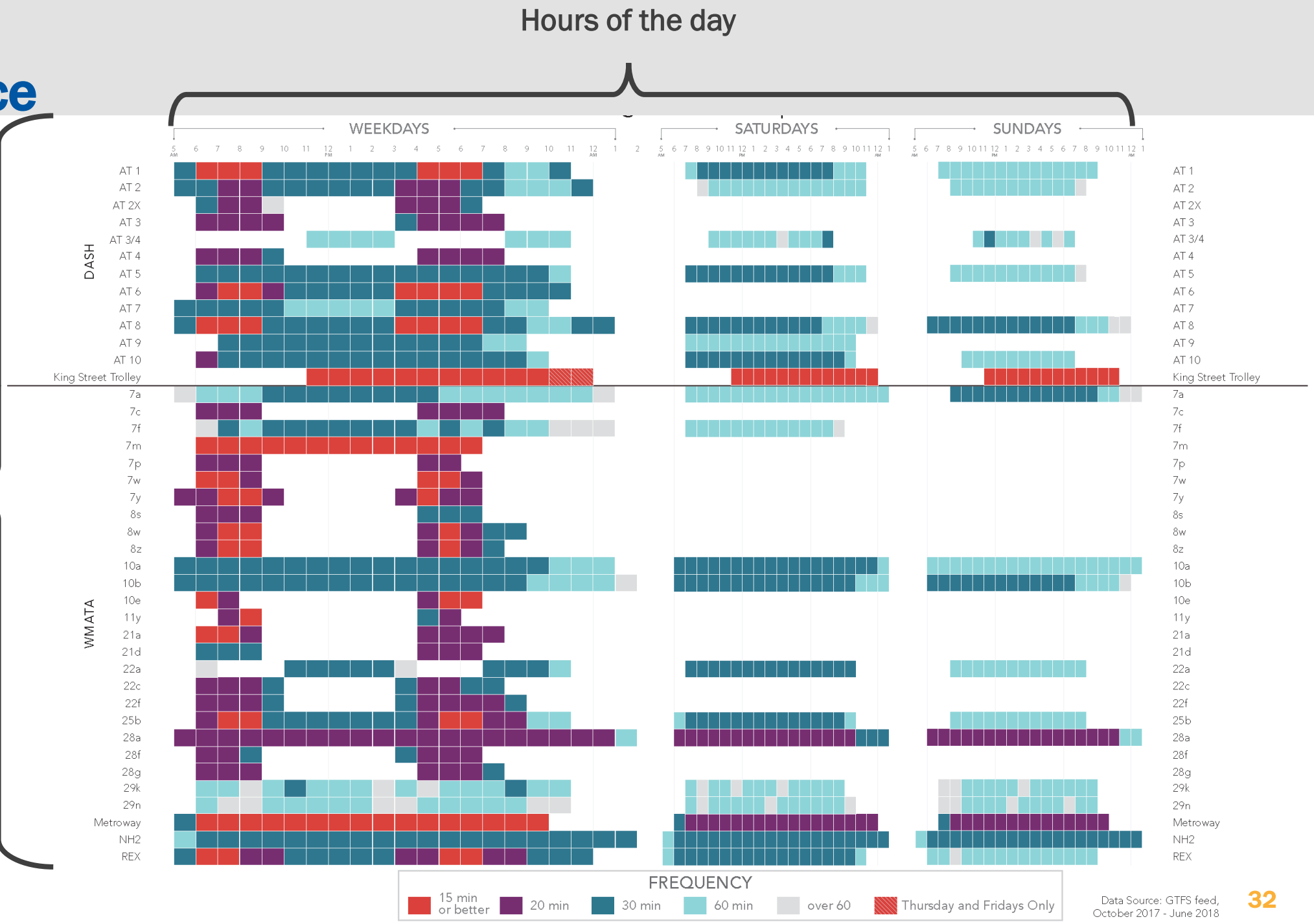


# Ridership Concept

## All-day Routes
## Midday Frequency



# Existing Span of Service

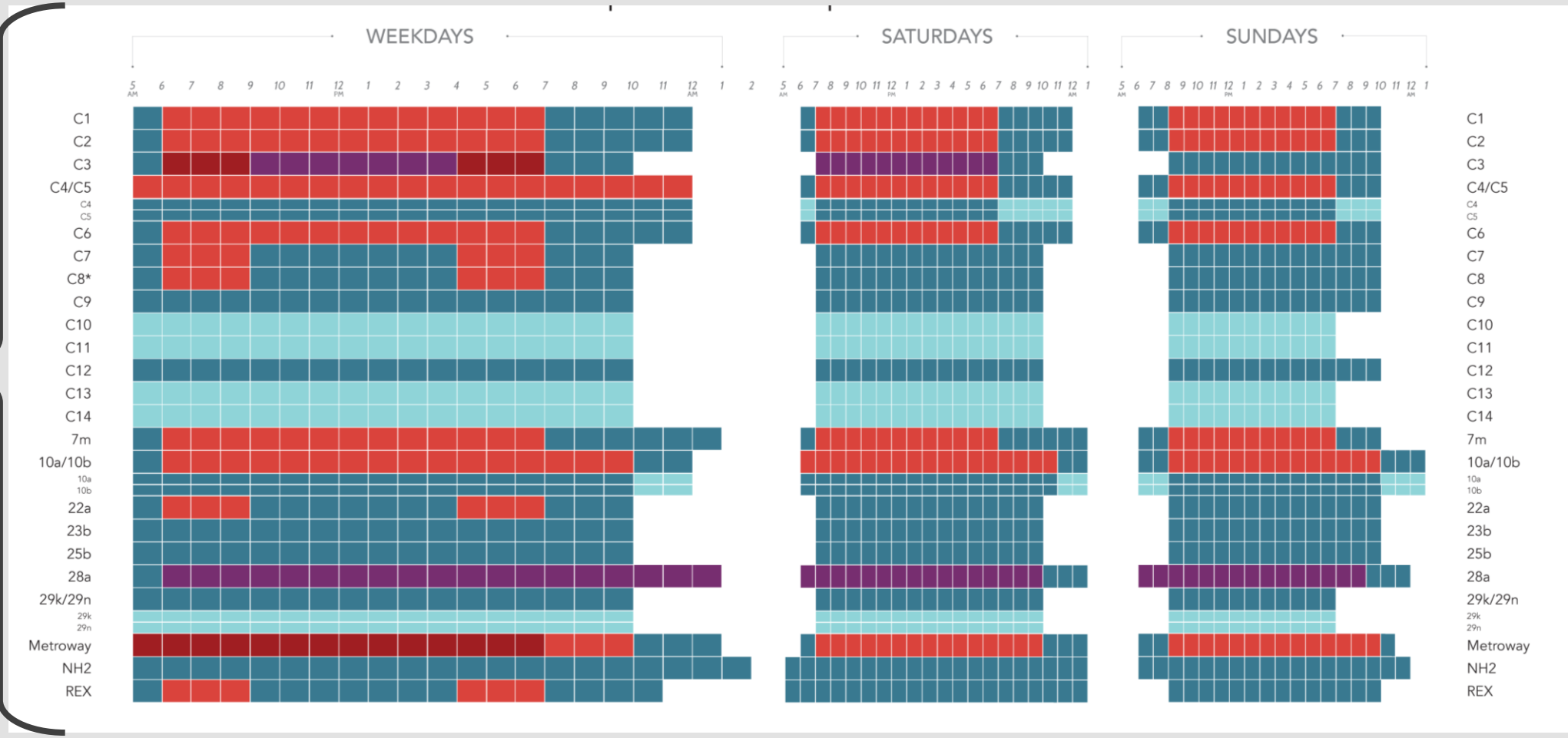



Data Source: GTFS feed, October 2017 - June 2018

# Coverage Concept
# Span of Service

Hours of the day

Routes



# Ridership Concept
# Span of Service

Hours of the day

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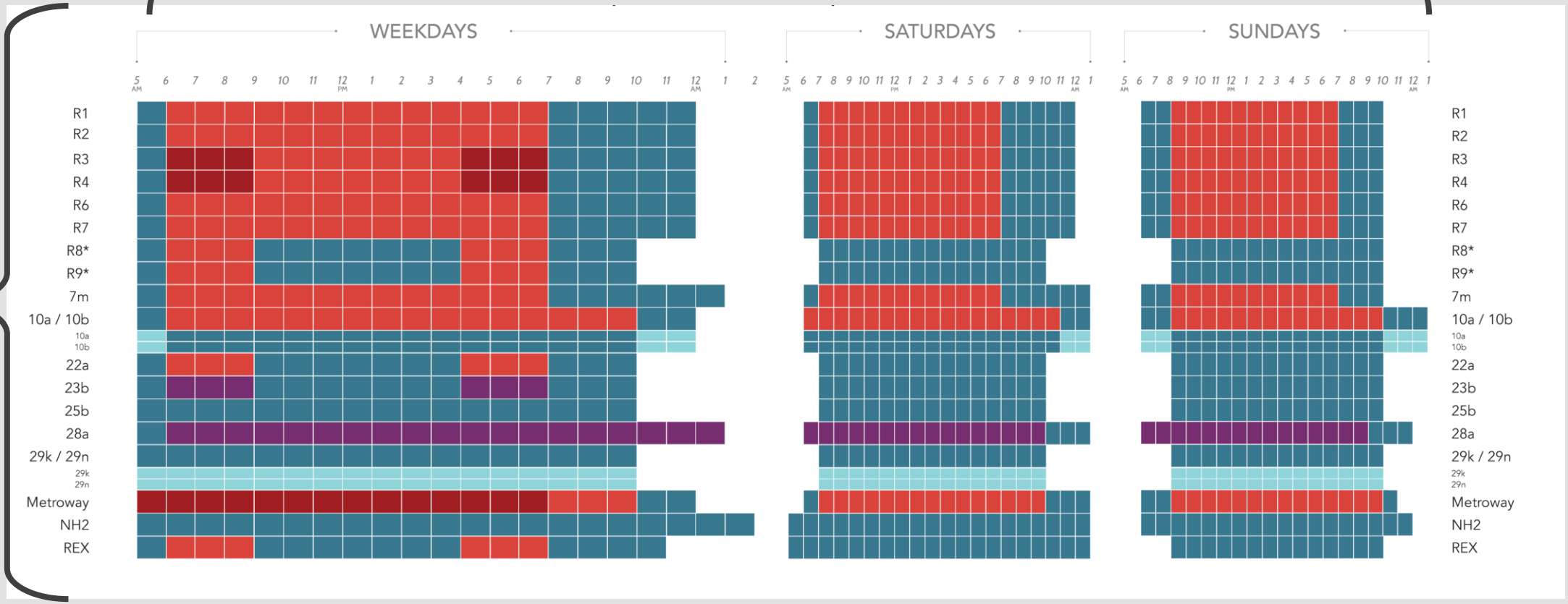
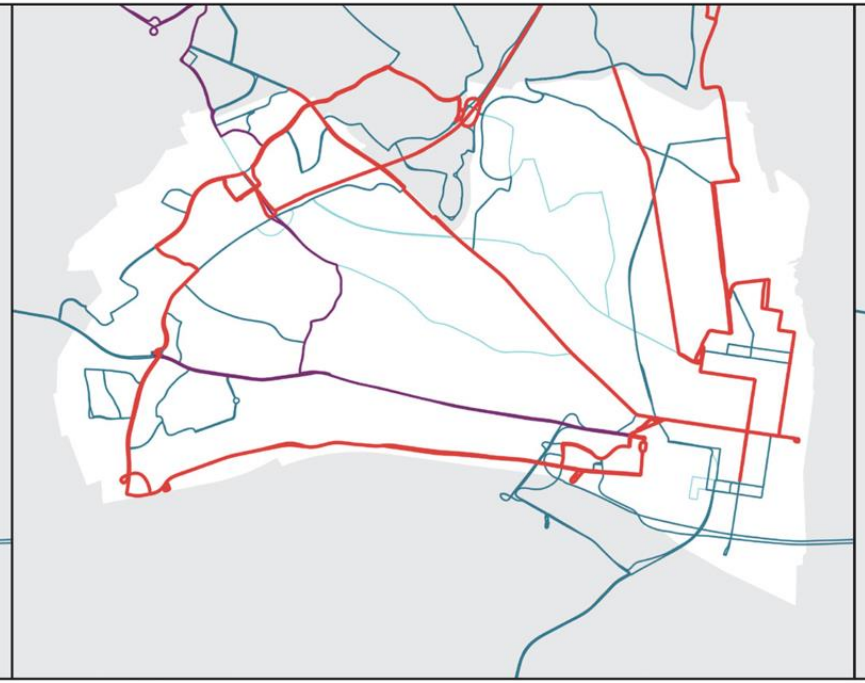


# Saturday Service

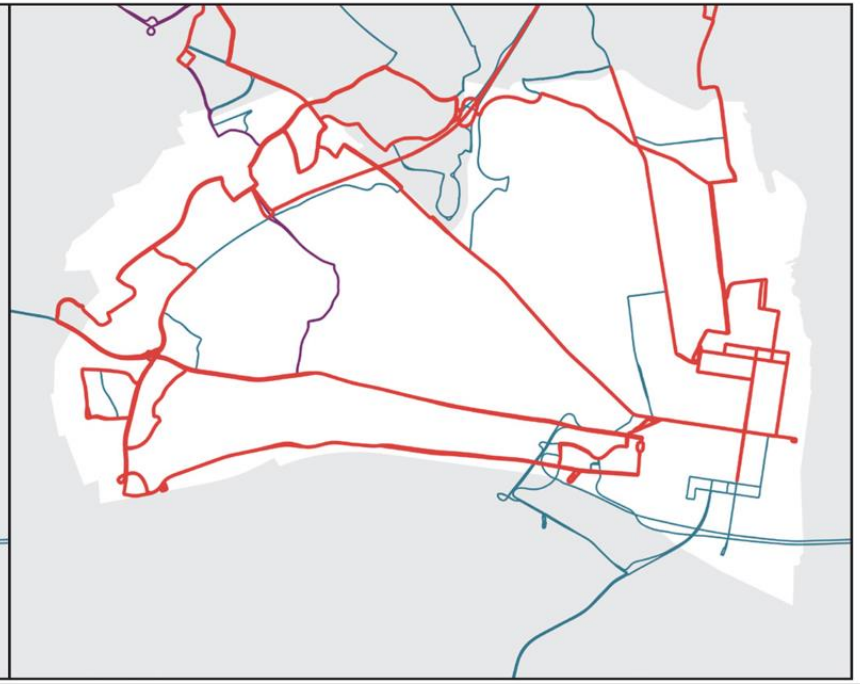
KST 15 min or better
7AF 16 - 25 min
AT1 26 - 40 min
AT7 41 - 60 min

## Existing

## Coverage



## Ridership

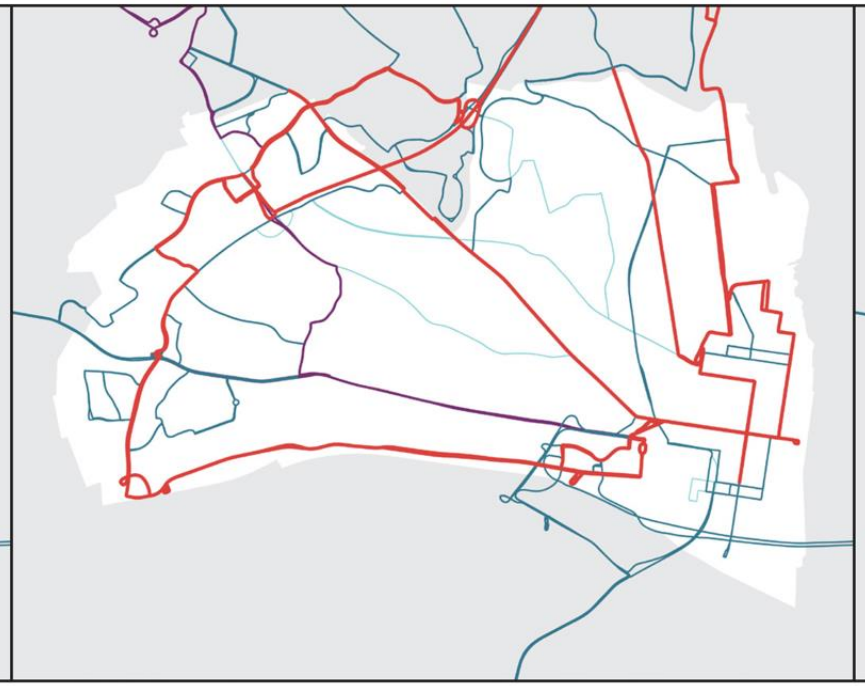


# Sunday Service

KST 15 min or better
7AF 16 - 25 min
AT1 26 - 40 min
AT7 41 - 60 min

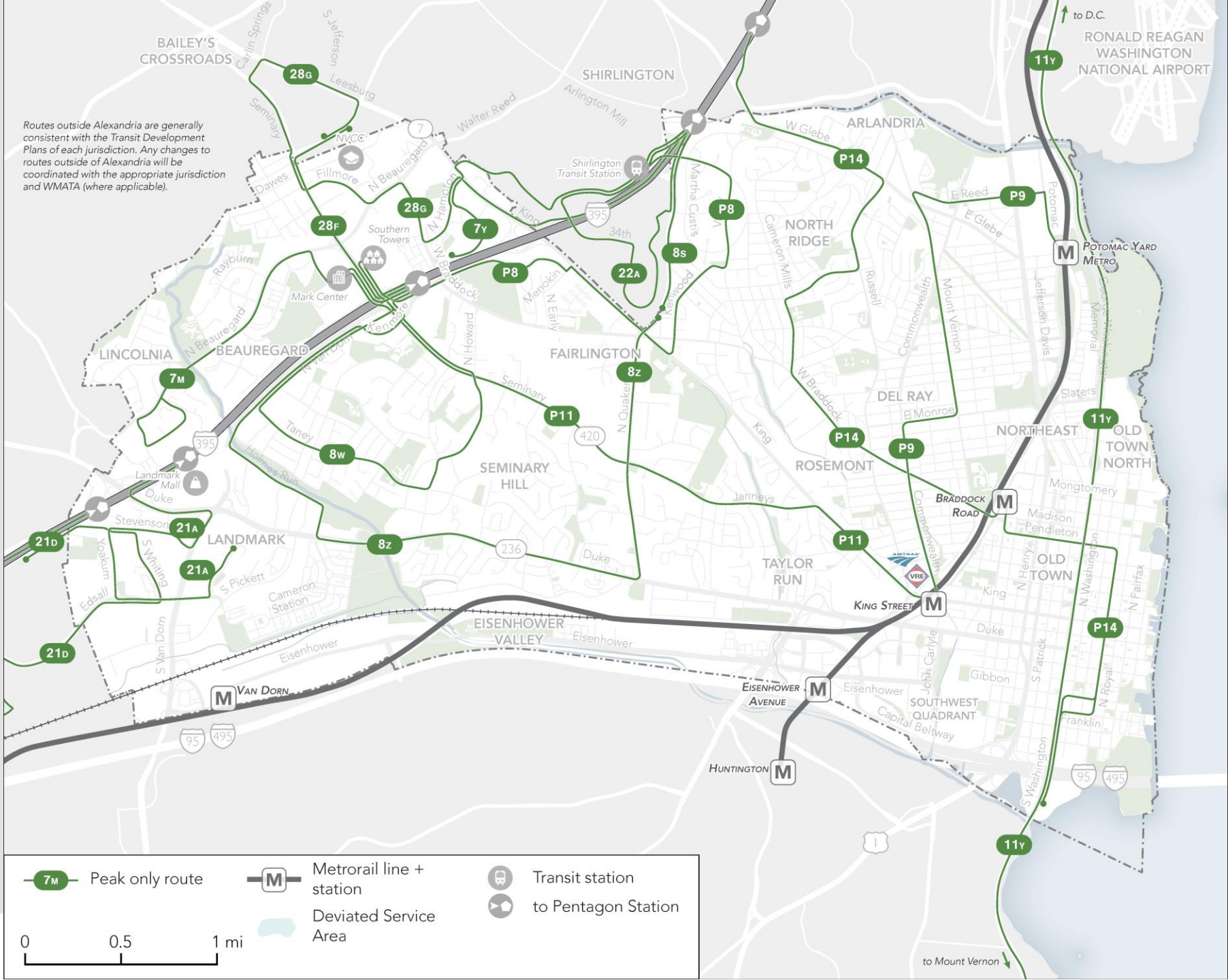
## Existing

## Coverage



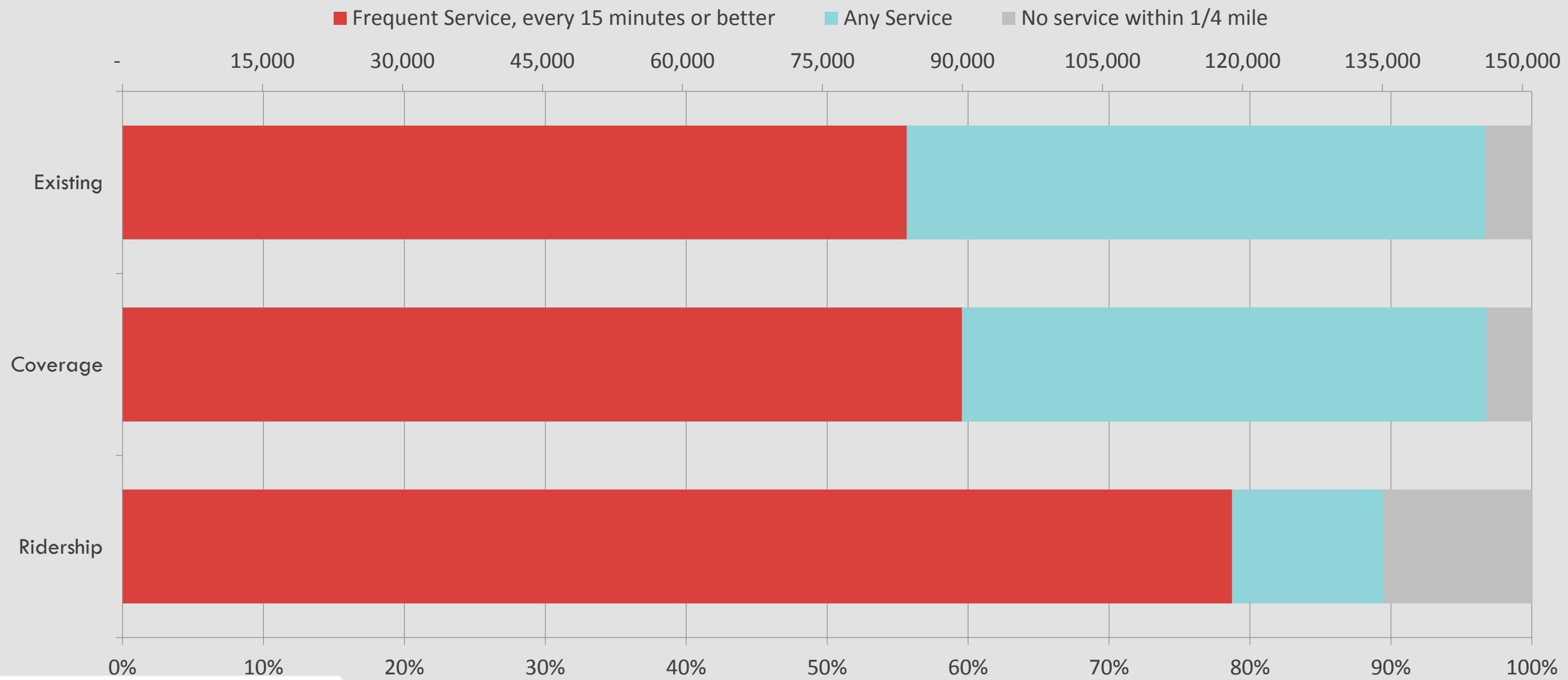
## Ridership

# Additional Peak Services



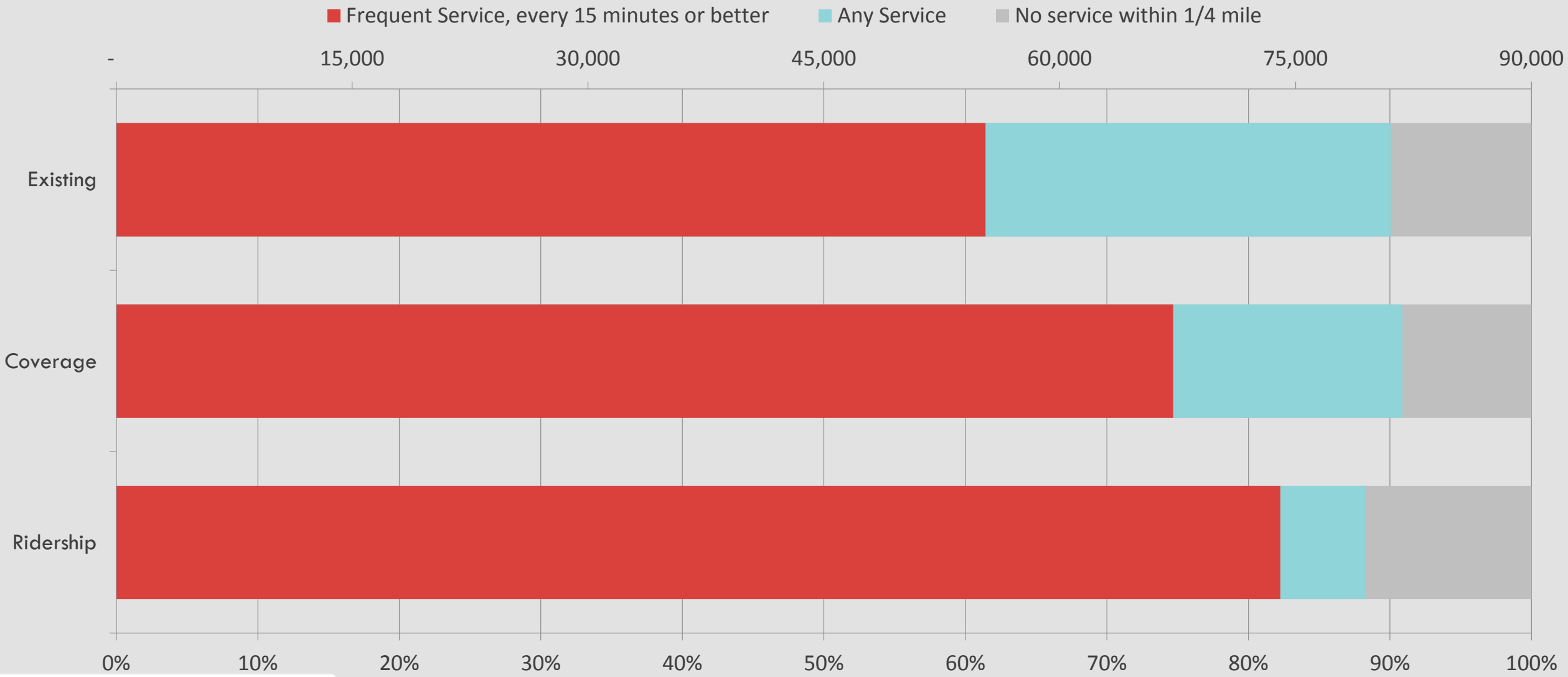
# Residents near Transit on Weekdays at Noon

**within 1/4 mile of a bus stop in Alexandria, Virginia**



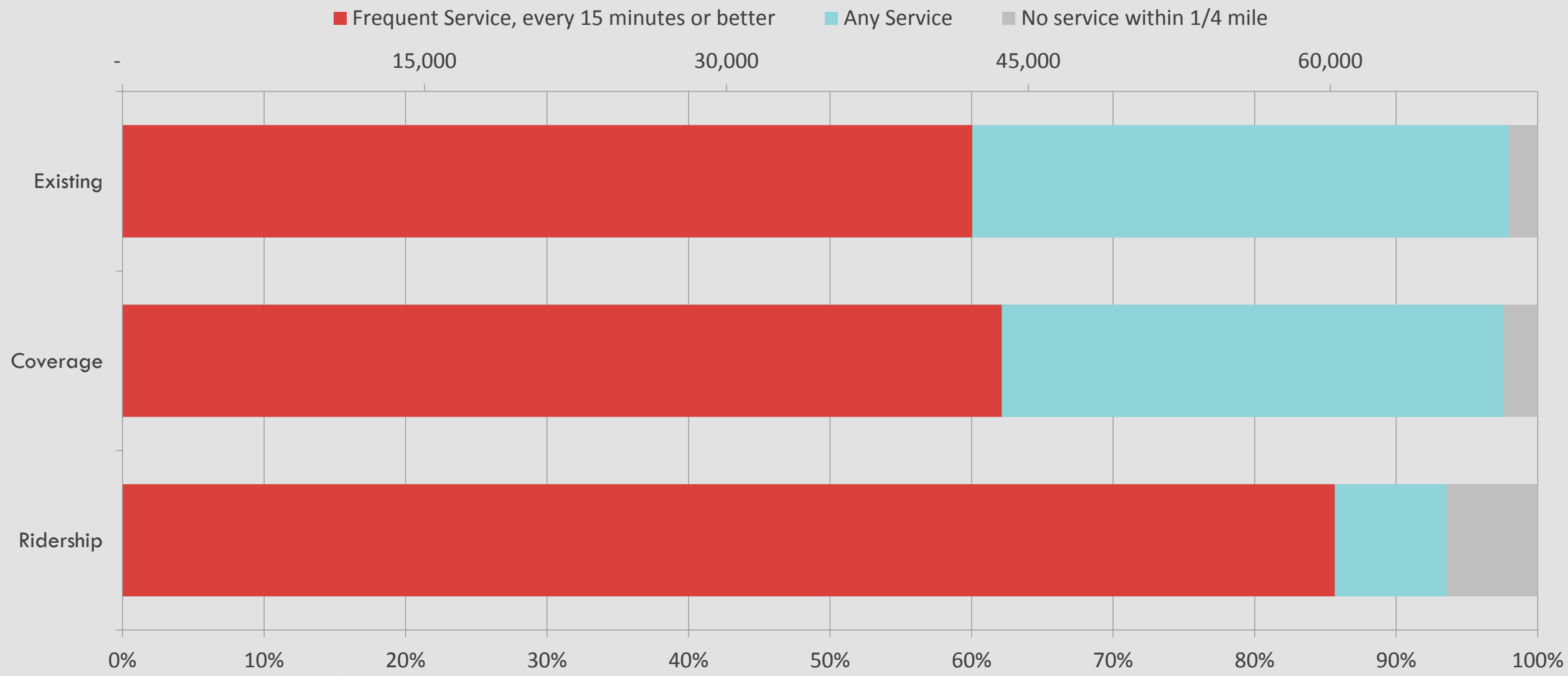
# Jobs near Transit on Weekdays at Noon

**within 1/4 mile of a bus stop in Alexandria, Virginia**



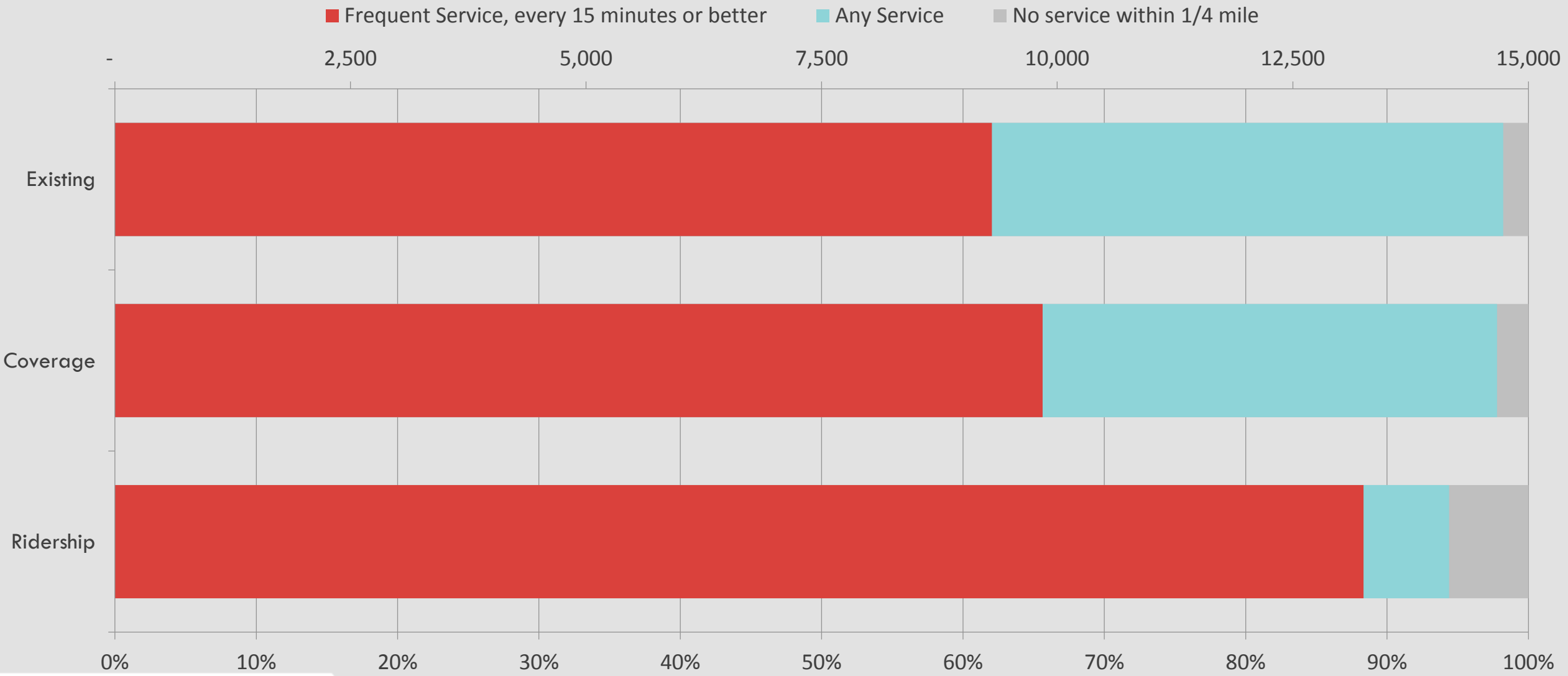
# Residents of color near Transit on Weekdays at Noon

**within 1/4 mile of a bus stop in Alexandria, Virginia**



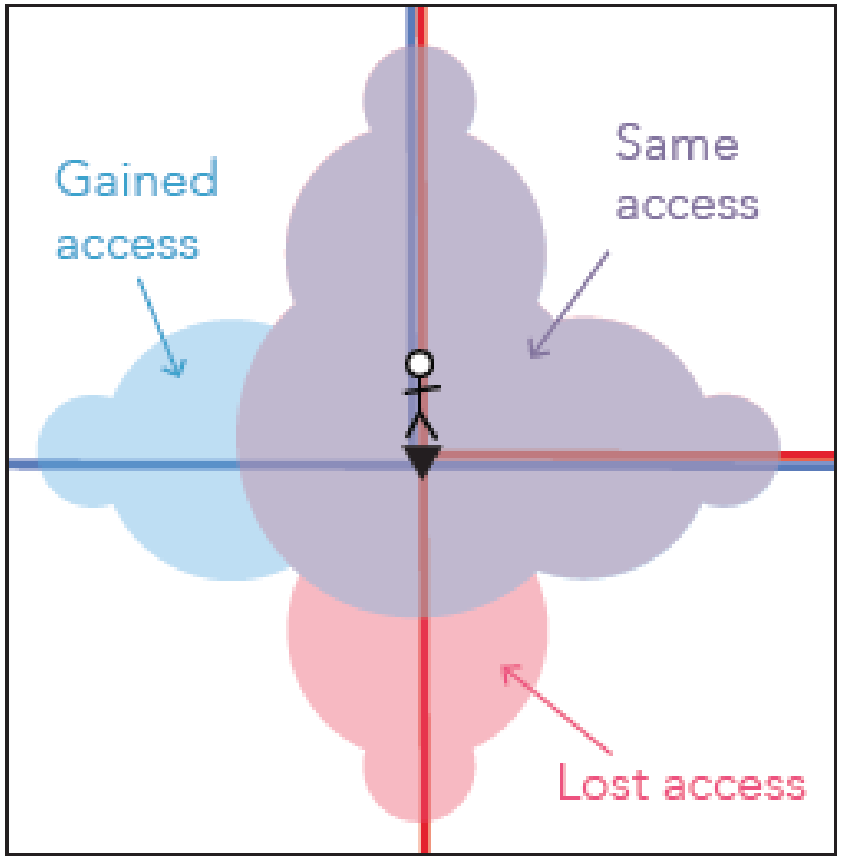
# Residents in poverty near Transit on Weekdays at Noon

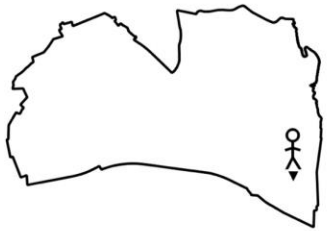
**within 1/4 mile of a bus stop in Alexandria, Virginia**



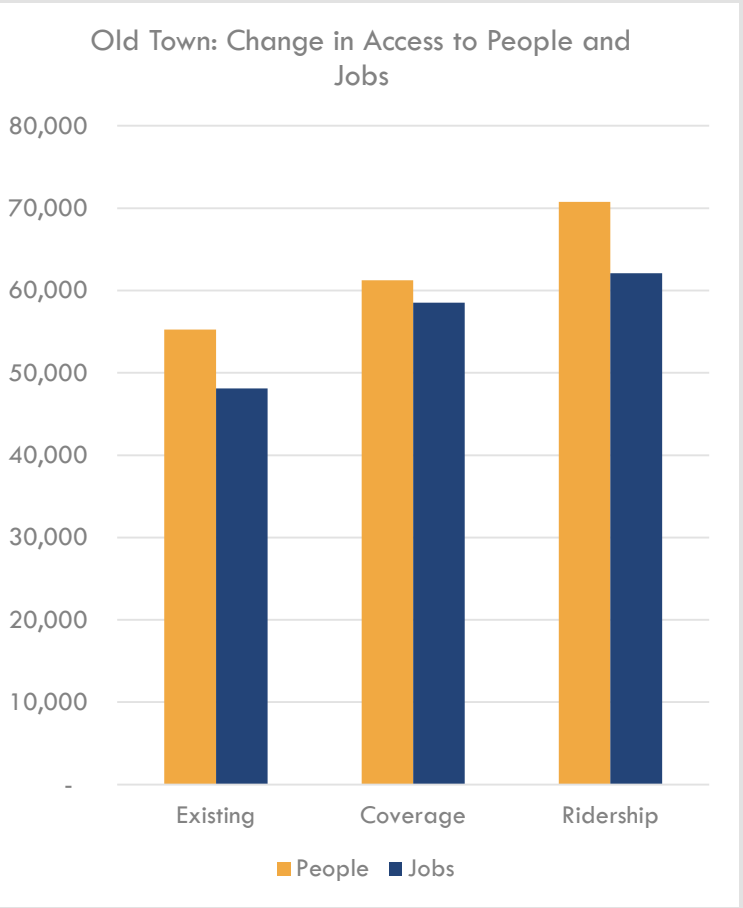
# Isochrone Results

- Counts walking, waiting, in-vehicles travel time, walk and wait for transfer, walk at destination
- Assumes ½ headway for the average wait
- Not just the area – Also what is inside the area



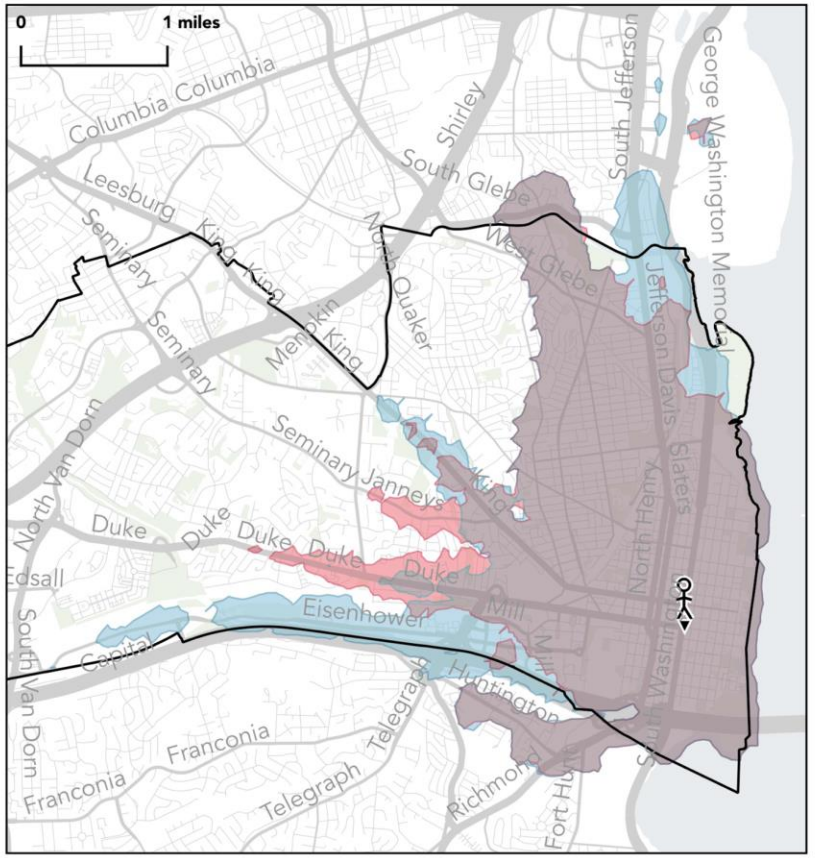


How far can I travel in **30 minutes** from **Old Town** at **12 pm**?



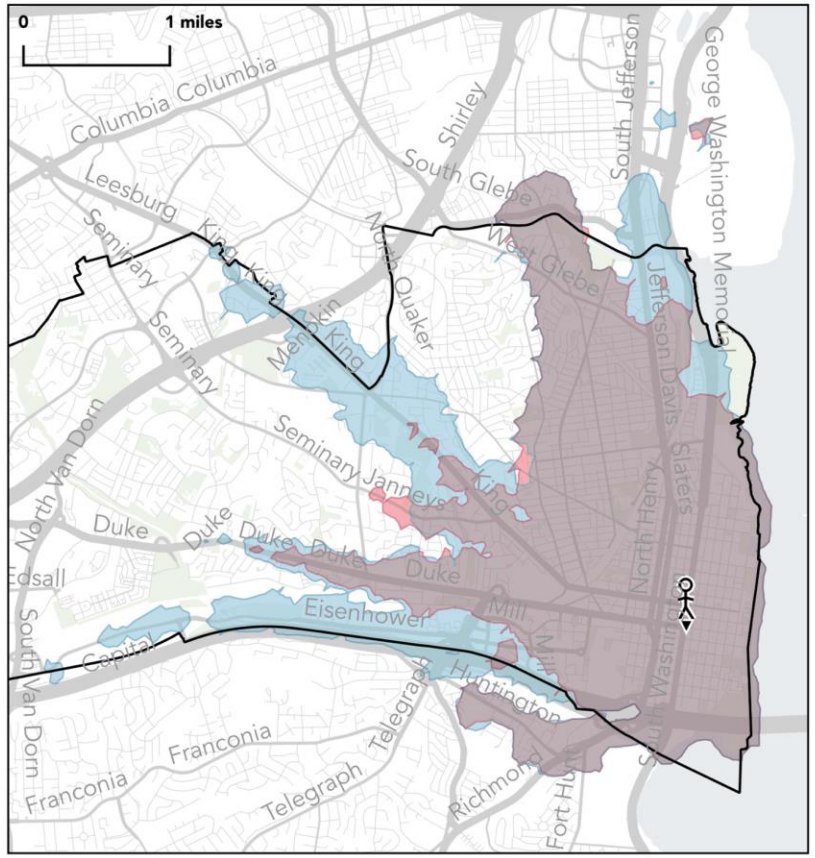

## **Coverage** Service Concept

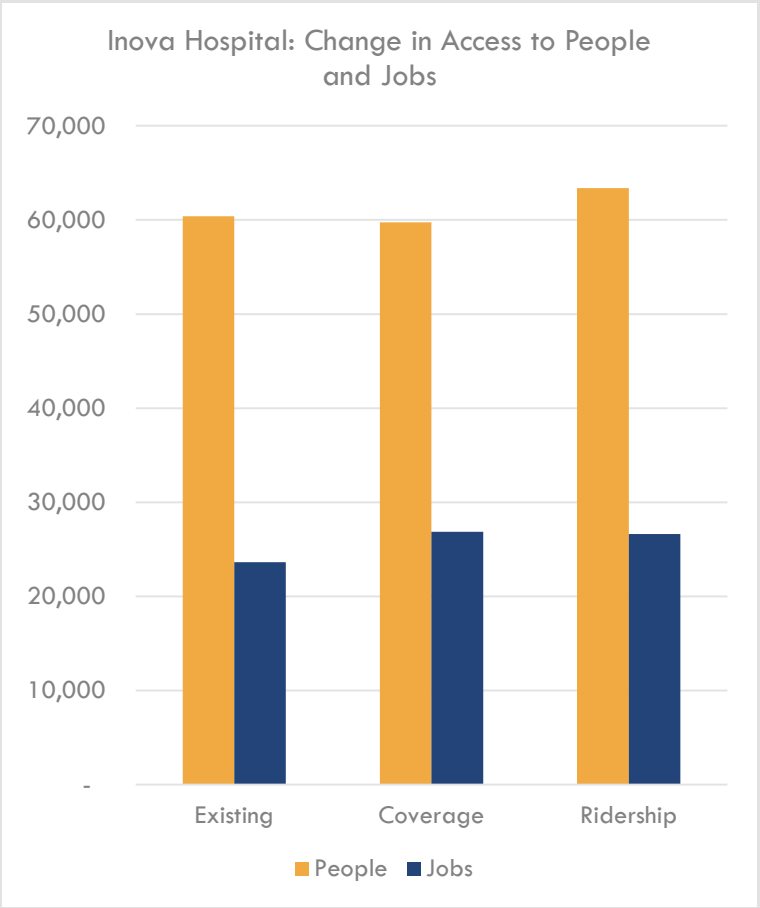
11% more residents and 22% more jobs accessible than existing network

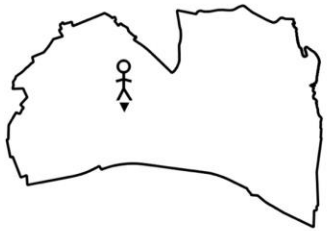



## **Ridership** Service Concept

28% more residents and 29% more jobs accessible than existing network



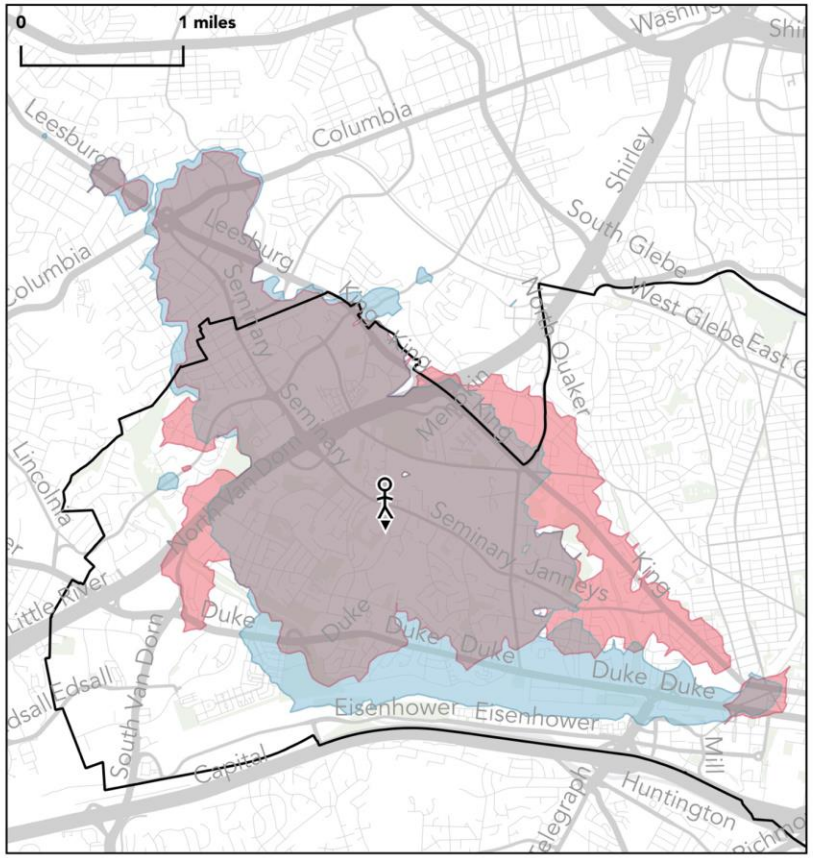


How far can I travel in **30 minutes** from **Inova Alexandria Hospital** at **12 pm**?

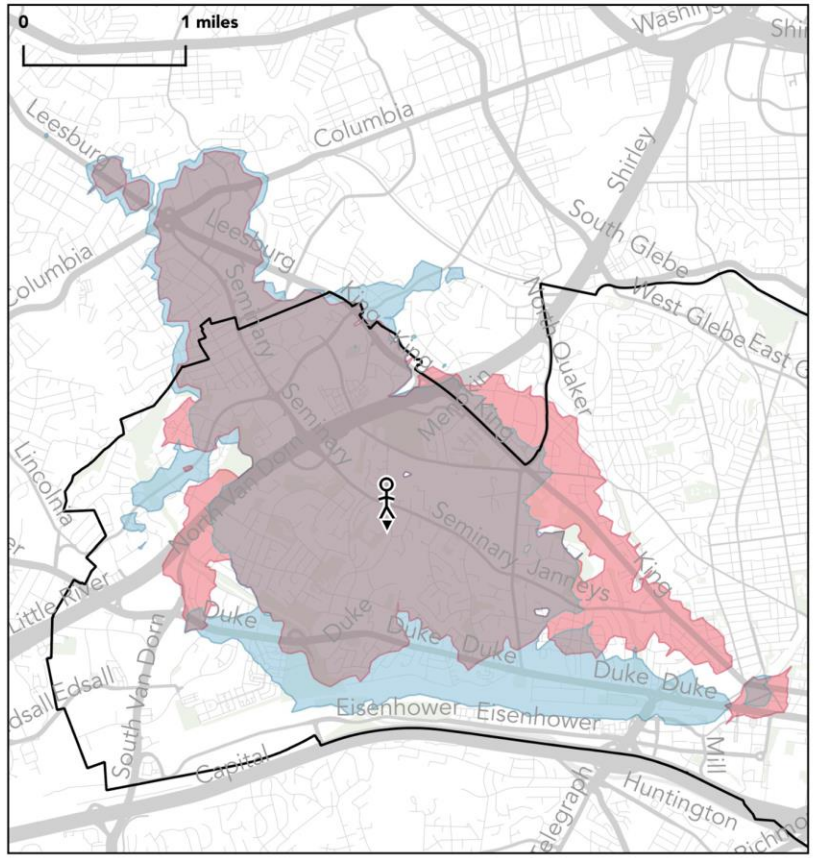
## **Coverage** Service Concept

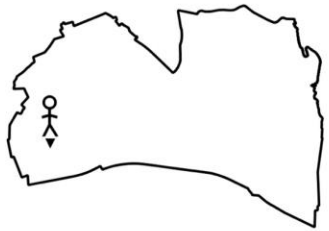
1% fewer residents and 14% more jobs accessible than existing network



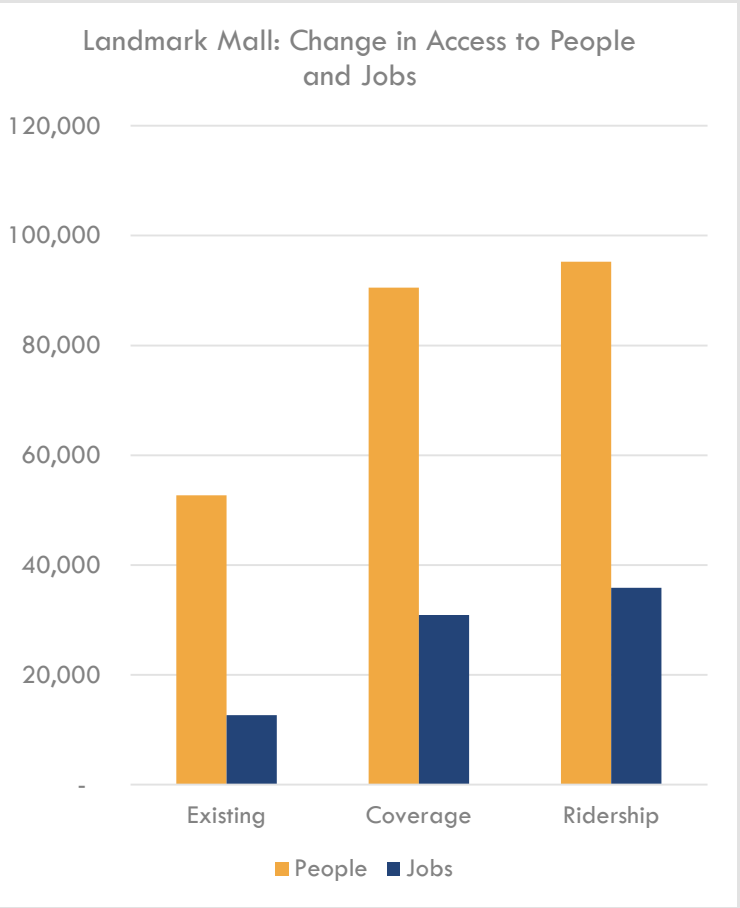

## **Ridership** Service Concept

5% more residents and 13% more jobs accessible than existing network



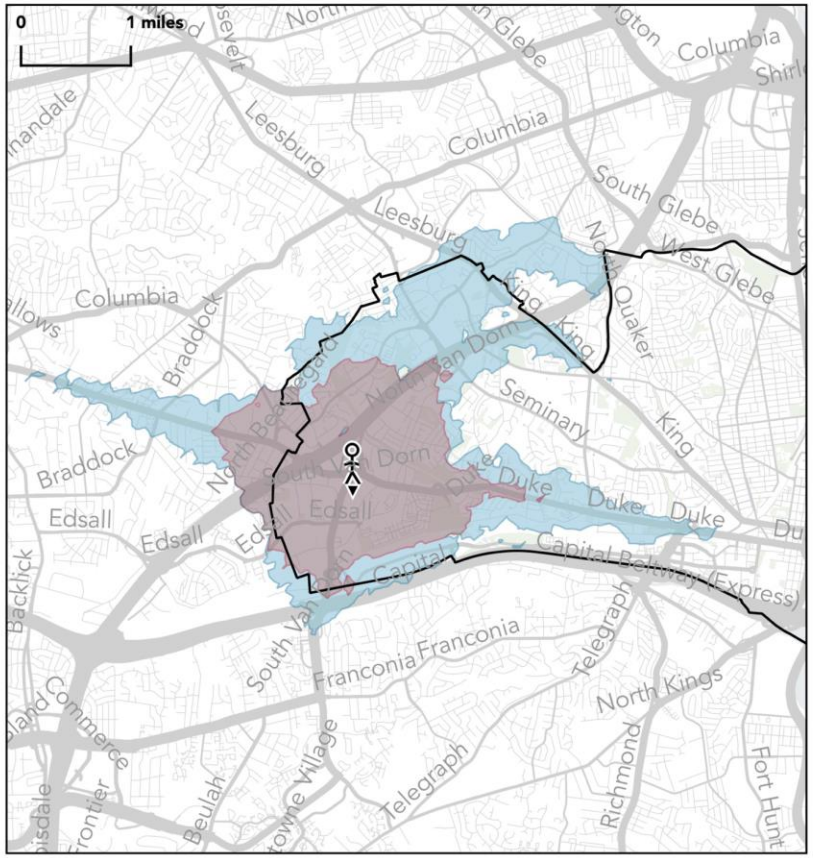


How far can I travel in **30 minutes** from **Landmark Mall** at **12 pm**?



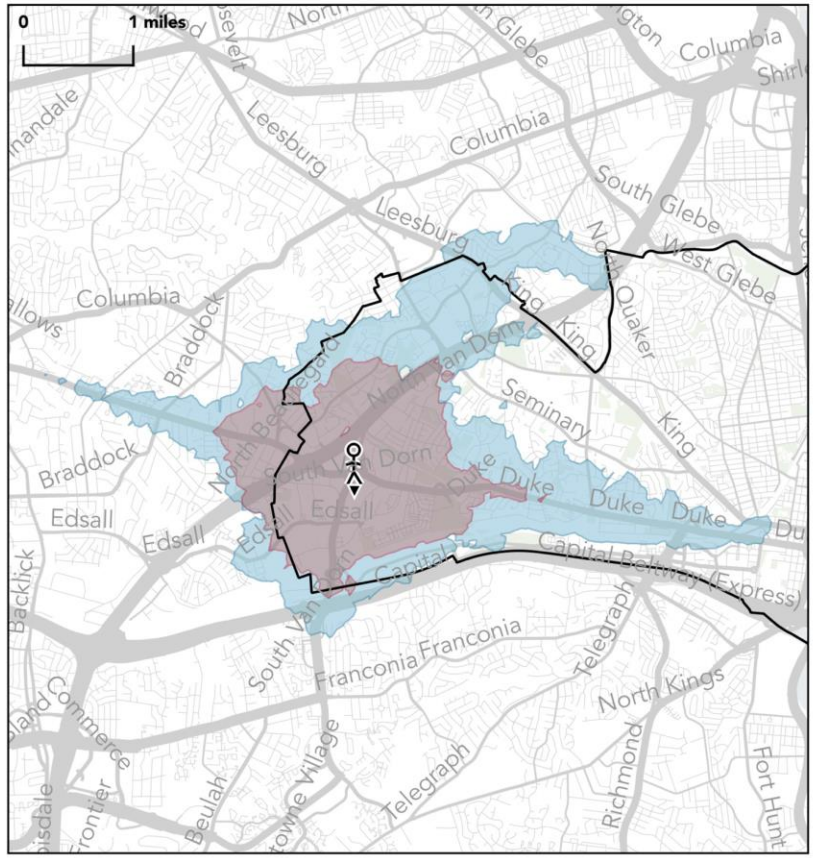

## **Coverage** Service Concept

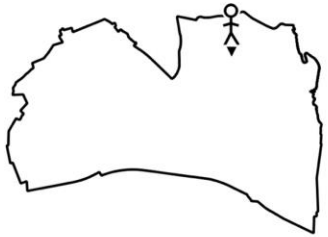
72% more residents and 144% more jobs accessible than existing network



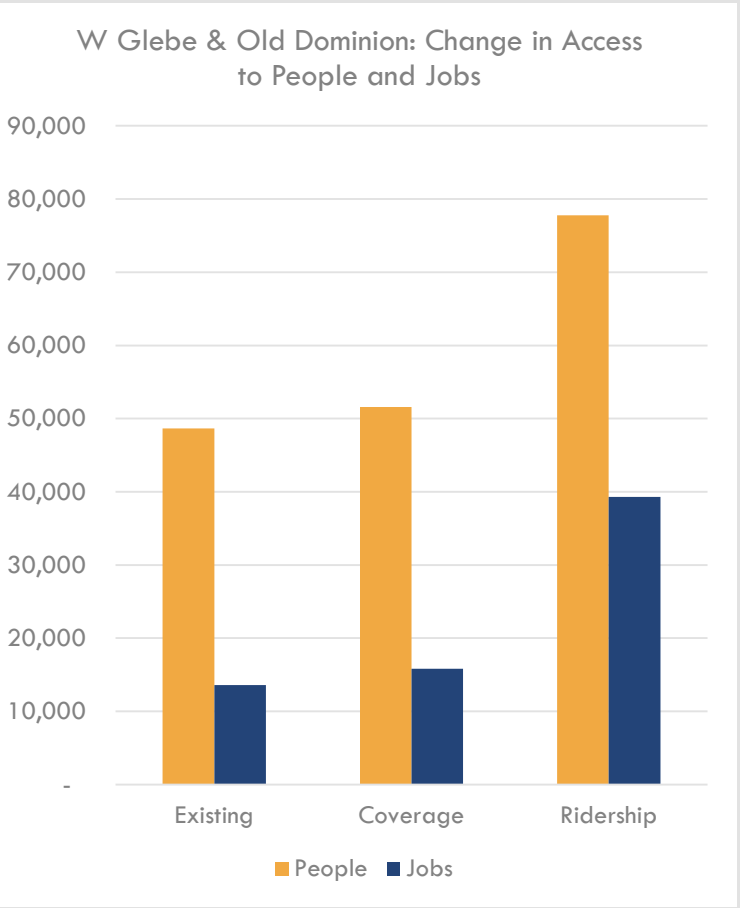

## **Ridership** Service Concept

81% more residents and 184% more jobs accessible than existing network



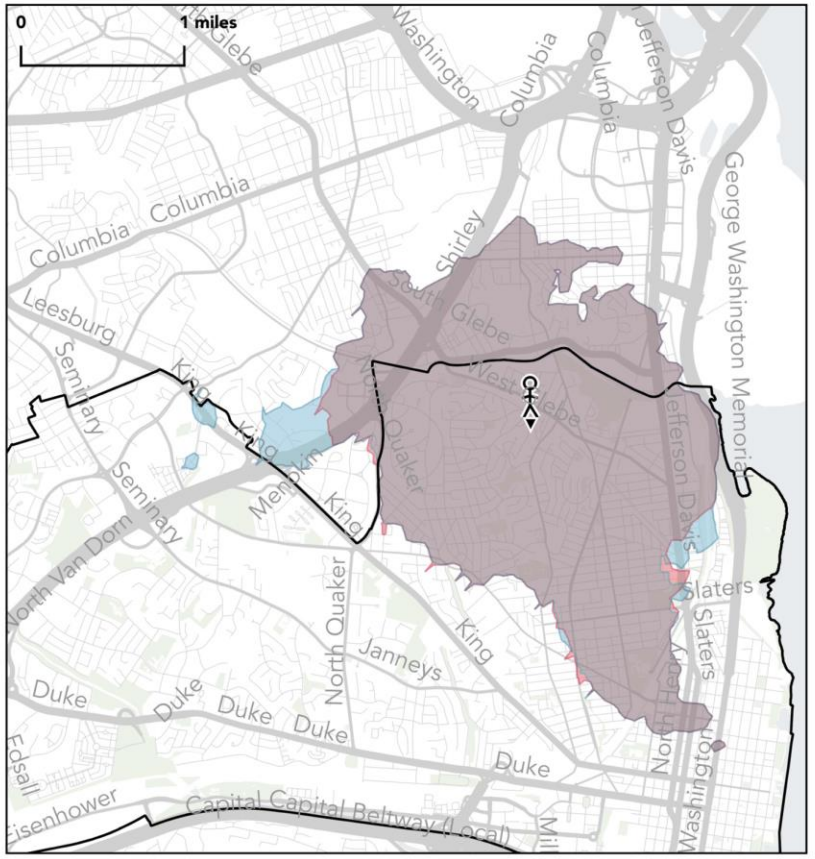


How far can I travel in **30 minutes** from **W Glebe & Old Dominion** at **12 pm**?



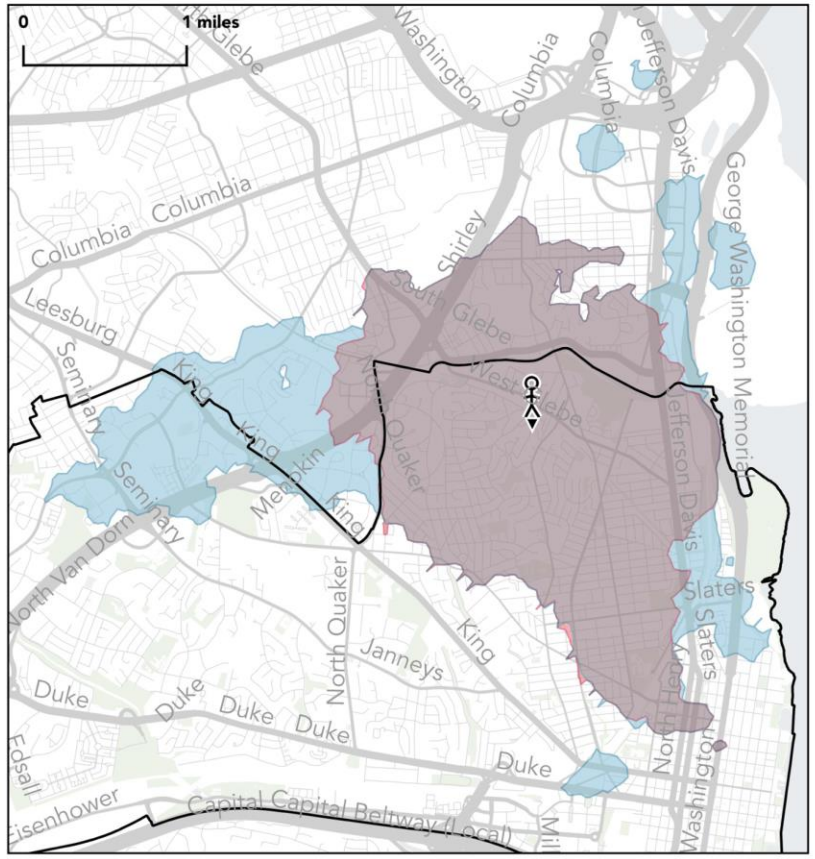

## **Coverage** Service Concept

6% more residents and 16% more jobs accessible than existing network




## **Ridership** Service Concept

60% more residents and 189% more jobs accessible than existing network



# National Landing

- Both concepts, while developed in advance of the Amazon announcement, provide access from all areas of Alexandria to National Landing sites (Crystal City, Pentagon City, Potomac Yard, Oakville Triangle)
- Refinements in draft network plan design
- Continued coordination with jurisdictional and agency partners through plan development and beyond to provide best mobility options

*In the Network Design phase the team will consider options such as extending the R7 to create a one-seat ride to Crystal City based on community values expressed in the ongoing Choices phase.*

# Cautions

- These are not proposals!
- They are illustrations of a policy choice.
- They are starting points for defining the final network.
- View these at high altitude.  Not all micro details are meaningful yet.
- Public reaction to these concepts will help you decide where you want to be on the ridership-coverage spectrum.

# Upcoming Outreach

# Community input focus

- We will be asking the public
  - Which of these Concepts serves your community's values best?
  - Where on the spectrum between the concepts do you want Alexandria to be?
  - Is the additional investment worth it? How much more, if any, do you want to invest in transit?

# Civic Engagement Framework

| Time Frame | General Public | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|
| Phase 1: Information, Choices & Tradeoffs | • Round 1 Community Meetings: Choices<br>• Choices Survey (standard format) | Workshop 1: Tradeoffs |
| Phase 2: Conceptual Networks | • Round 2 Community Meetings: Concepts<br>• Concept Survey (MetroQuest) | Workshop 2: Concepts |
| Phase 3: Final Plan & Implementation | • Tentative Community Meetings<br>• Commission & Council Meetings | Workshop 3: Final Plan and Implementation |

# Engagement Phase 2

## Components

- Stakeholder workshop
- Alexandria & DASH leadership briefings
- Community meetings
- Pop-up Events
- MetroQuest Survey
- Supplemental outreach

## Objectives

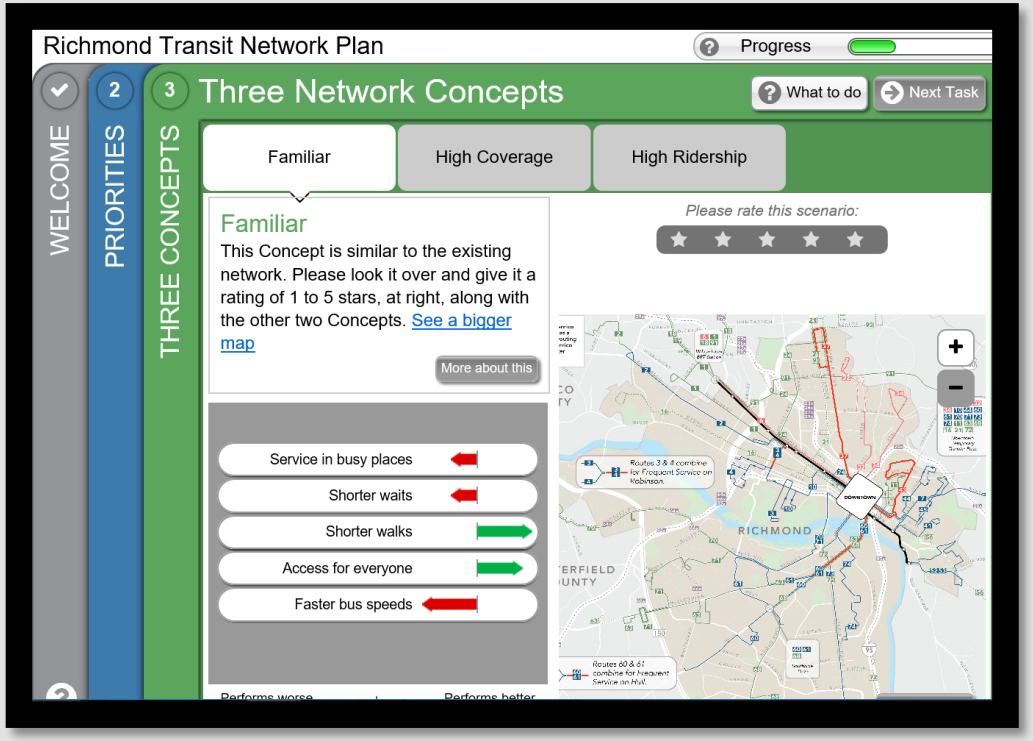
- Share summary of input received during Phase 1
- Present draft concepts for feedback
- Define process for developing a draft plan and short-term implementations
- Increase outreach to underrepresented demographic groups
- Introduce new Councilmembers and stakeholders to the process

# Public Engagement Events

- Public Meetings
  - 3 Meetings
    - Tuesday March 5, 6:30-8:30pm, Hammond Middle School, 4646 Seminary Road
    - Wednesday March 6, 6:30-8:30pm, Armstrong Rec Center, 25 West Reed Avenue
    - Thursday March 7, 6:30-8:30pm, Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street
  - Open house display boards & brief presentation
  - Feedback form and opportunity to take MetroQuest survey
- Pop-up Events around the city staffed by City and DASH staff
- Stakeholder Meeting (Feb 26)
- Council Briefing (Feb 26)

# Survey & Supplemental Outreach

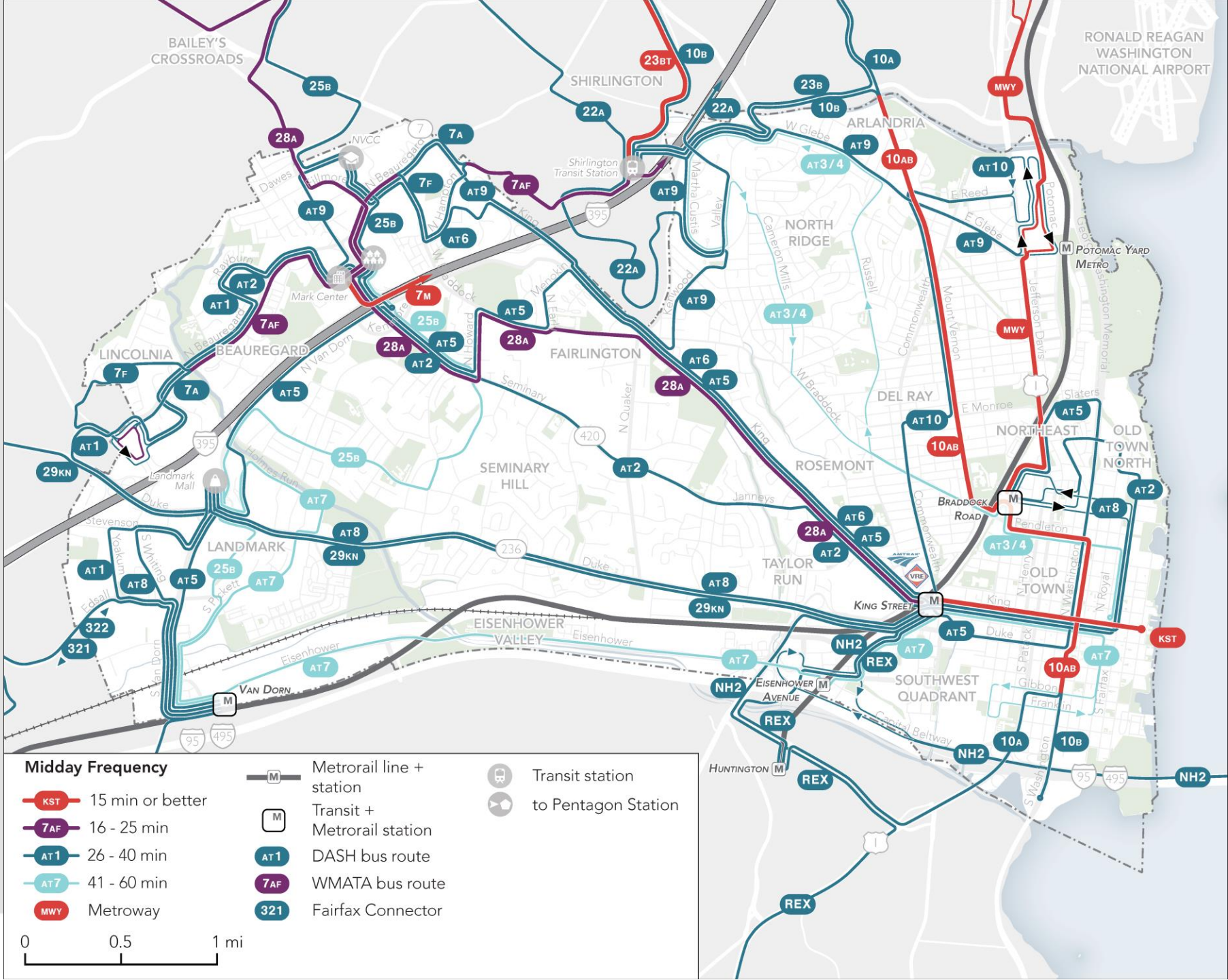
- **Requesting TAC support for promoting/publicizing meetings and survey**
- MetroQuest survey
  - Gather input on priorities and rating of concepts
  - Will mirror public meeting activities
  - Timeline:
    - February 19th – Survey Live
    - March 18th – End Survey
    - Late March: Process results
- Pop-up meetings (late February/early March)
- Distribute information via the GO Alex Street team, newsletters and eNews
- Display boards and survey available on project website



# Next Steps

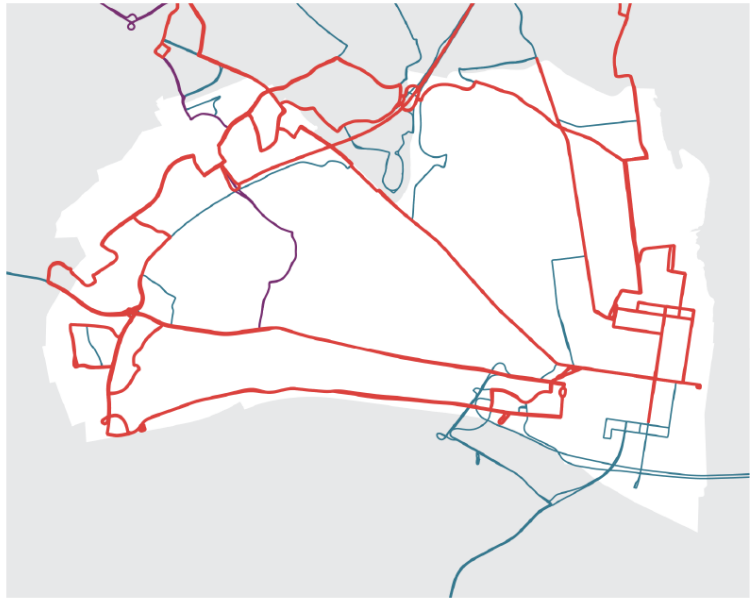
# What's the Right Balance for Alexandria?

Existing system is about 50% Ridership and 50% Coverage



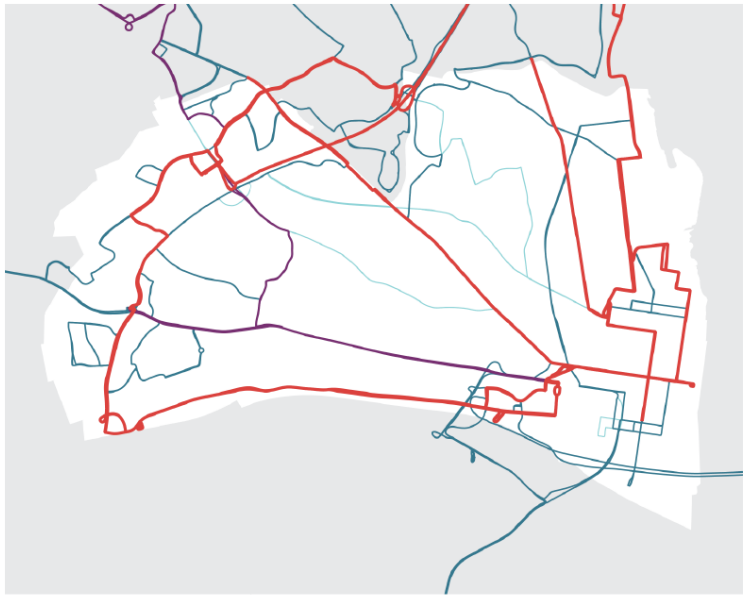
## Ridership Concept

90% Ridership/10% Coverage



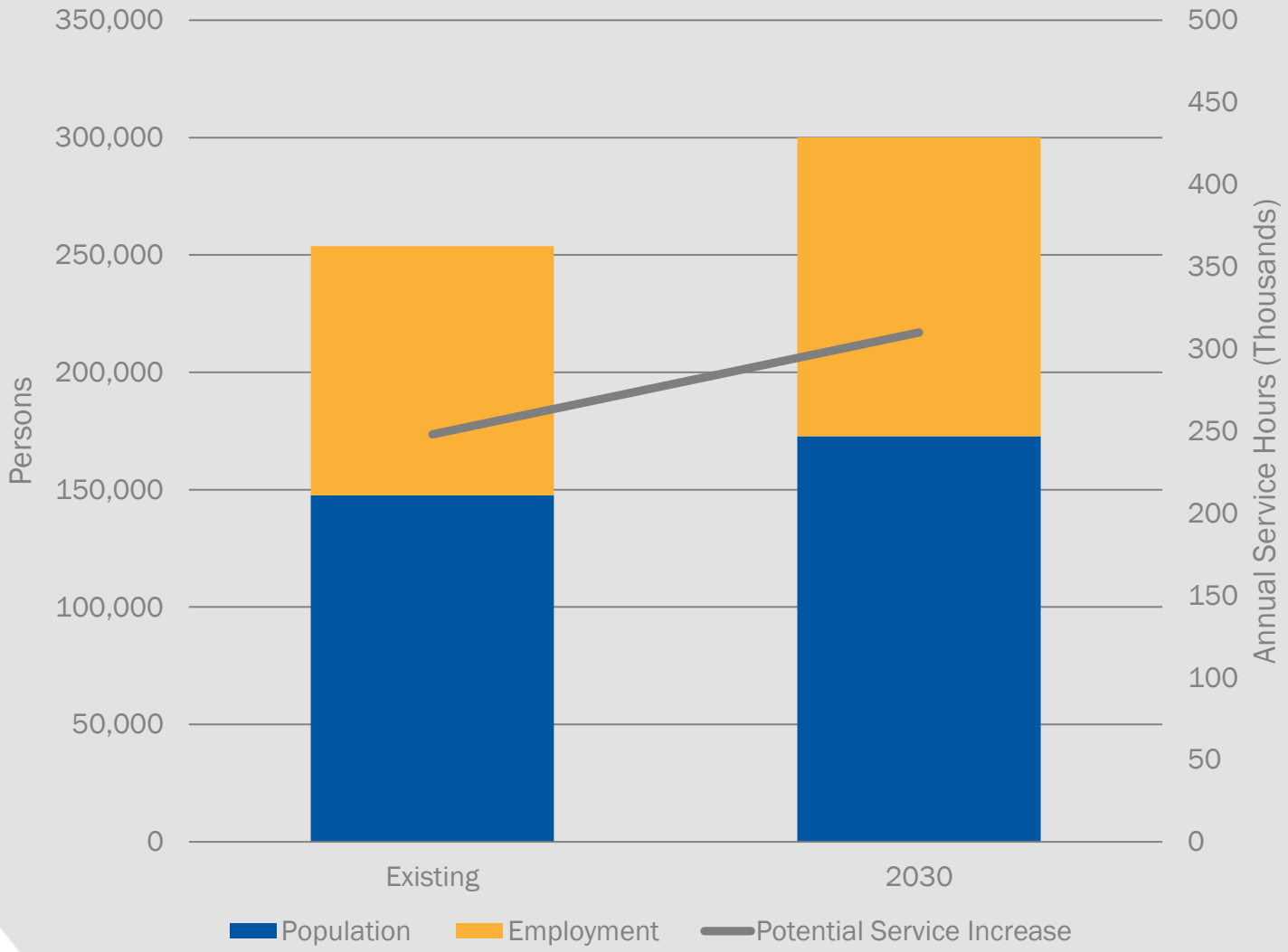
## Coverage Concept

70% Ridership/30% Coverage



*Where should the transit network be, on this spectrum?*

# Service Increases Consistent With Planned Growth



# Timeline

- February 11: Concepts Report Released
- February 13: Briefing to TC and Board
- February 19: Metroquest Survey Opens
- Feb-March: Public Engagement on Concepts
- March 18: Survey Closes, Begin Summary of Responses
- **April: Board and TC Direction on Key Choices**
- April-May: Develop Draft Plan
- Summer: Release Draft Plan and Public Engagement

# Questions?

- Discussion, Comments, or Questions
- Have follow up questions? Contact:
  - Steve Sindiong, Steve.Sindiong@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4047
  - Martin Barna, martin.barna@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5644
  - Or go to https://www.alexandriava.gov/Transit